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THURSDAY, MAY 28TH, 2015

Visiting choir has strong Robeson connection
Page 5

READ THE GEM TOTALLY FREE EVERY WEEK ONLINE!
SIMPLY FOLLOW THE LINK MARKED 'THIS WEEK' FROM OUR WEBSITE

Food festival fun in Cowbridge
Pages 18 & 19

PENCOED RFC UNDER-16s 'CAP' OFF A FINE SEASON!

Picture by *JULIE HANCOCK*

Pencoed RFC under-16s recently held their end-of-season presentation evening, when several players were rewarded for their loyalty to the club with the presentation of caps. *(SEE MORE PICTURES AND A REPORT ON PAGE 36).*

Farm worker killed

AN investigation is under way after a 26-year-old farm worker in Pontyclun was killed in a machinery accident.

A police spokesman told The GEM: "At 9.45am on Saturday, May 23, South Wales Police officers attended at a farm in the Hensol area following reports of a sudden death of a 26-year-old man from the Bridgend area.

"Next of kin have been informed. South Wales Police will carry out a joint investigation with the Health and Safety Executive, on behalf of HM Coroner."

GROUP ANNOUNCES JULY OPENING DATE IN PORTHCAWL

Holiday hotel's future is secure after £1million investment by the new owner

DOUBTS over the future of the Glamorgan Holiday Hotel, near Porthcawl Harbour, were dispelled, after its new owner announced a £1million investment in the building.

Cartrefi Cymru are re-opening it in July, after the hotel, which specialises in short term breaks for older people, closed in January due to financial difficulties.

Cartrefi Cymru a major Welsh not-for-profit organisation that supports people with disabilities, has now taken full ownership.

The £1m investment includes a £250k refurbishment of guest facilities and will secure 25 jobs. The hotel is expected to bring over 2,500 visitors to the town each year.

Taking on the new phase is new manager Chris Lewis, who is currently overseeing the refurbishment and developing new guest facilities and entertainment. He has worked in the area for over 30 years in the hospitality and care industry.

Adrian Roper, Cartrefi's chief executive, said: 'I am delighted the hotel will reopen in July following this major investment.

Adrian Roper and Chris Lewis.

"We've taken time to listen to guest feedback and used this opportunity to develop a better experience for guests. The Glamorgan Holiday Hotel has a proud history and Chris and his team are excited to be welcoming back our wonderful customers to this well-loved hotel.

"It's a positive endorsement of Porthcawl and we look forward to working with the local community in providing further business and employment opportunities."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Give Guide Dogs a hand and...
'Help keep pavements clear'

GUIDE DOGS CYMRU are asking GEM readers to take a few minutes of their time this Volunteers' Week (June 1-7) to help change the law on pavement parking.

We believe that inconsiderate parking forces pedestrians, particularly those with sight loss, into the path of danger.

They may be left with no choice but to walk in the road when they find the pavement is blocked.

You can help our campaign by taking a photo of a car or other vehicle blocking a pavement near you, and emailing it to *campaigns@guidedogs.org.uk* with the street name and place where you took it.

Guide Dogs will use your photo to build a map of problems areas in every parliamentary constituency across the UK. We will use this map to try to persuade MPs to change the law to stop problem pavement parking.

Doing a bite-size task for a good cause such as this, without having to make a regular commitment, is known as micro-volunteering.

It makes volunteering for Guide Dogs Cymru much easier than you might think.

By taking just a few minutes out of your day to help us change the law to stop inconsiderate pavement parking, you can make a difference to the lives of people with sight loss.

To find out about other volunteering opportunities with Guide Dogs Cymru, ring Steve Kersley on 07785 907728 or email *Steve.Kersley@guidedogs.org.uk*

Every hour, another person in the UK loses their sight.

If it's you, we're here to make sure you don't lose your freedom as well.

But we can only do this with the support of volunteers and the time they give – whether that's a lot of their time, or a little.

Steve Kersley, Cardiff.
Volunteer Co-ordinator, Guide Dogs Cymru.

Parking on the pavement at Laleston.

'Bridgend toilets of a high standard'

I FEEL I must respond to what I consider a very unfair and misleading view put forward in a recent GEM letter by a correspondent from Monknash, who complained both about the state and lack of good public toilets in Bridgend town centre.

The picture painted is not what I, and many Bridgend residents, experience on a daily basis.

We have four locations for public toilets in our town and all are kept to a very high standard for the visiting public.

Indeed, the bus station toilets have regularly won annual awards as some of the best kept in Wales.

If your correspondent would care to contact me and explain the degree of grievance, time, date, location etc, I will personally address whatever problems may have arisen.

This is an offer for any other member of the public visiting Bridgend town.

On this occasion, it is wrong to suggest that the Welsh Assembly is responsible for public toilets in Wales. Where they exist, local councils are the providers.

Coun David Unwin, Bridgend Town Council.

Ambulance response times

WHY is the ambulance service in Wales so poor? The figures given out by the Welsh Government show that only about half of emergency calls hit the minimum response time; how on earth is this possible?

Overall, the rates are not very good, but the Cwm Taf Health Board covering RCT and Merthyr has a miserable 46 per cent response rate.

I don't blame the paramedics who do a great job. Surely this is a dreadful indictment of the Welsh Government and, in particular,Cardiff South and Penarth's AM Vaughan Gethin, who is actually responsible for ambulances!

Week after week, we see Labour AMs blaming everyone under the sun for problems in Wales. Yet the ambulance service is the clear responsibility of the Labour-led Government. I remember them saying that response times would be met six months ago. What a farce.

I know that Plaid Cymru is committed to link health and care so that patients could be released from hospital earlier. This would be a huge benefit and avoid the obscene queues of ambulances at the Heath that we regularly see.

We also need to review the out-of-hours care service, so that unnecessary attendance at A&E can be avoided.

It's time to give a shock to the complacent Labour rule in the Bay. To my mind, Plaid offers a better option.

David Wilton,
Plaid Cymru member.

St John Cymru Wales thanks the public for their generosity

ON behalf of St John Cymru Wales Pencoed - Bridgend Division and its DOIC Joy Evans (promoter), I would like to thank the public for their generous donation of £505.70 at our Bridgend town centre collection held on May 16 (no expenses were incurred from the collection).

This money will assist the division with its general funds enabling us to continue the work we do in the community. It will also provide assistance to Dylan Pritchard who is raising money to attend the St John International Cadet Championships in Hong Kong.

If members of the public would like to support Dylan on this fantastic opportunity they can donate further via www.justgiving.com/Dylan-Pritchard-HKICC.

Paul Wiggins, Pencoed Bridgend Division.

Making Hay while the sun shines!

BRIDGEND Soroptimist Club enjoyed a sunny Saturday at the Hay Festival on May 23.
The weather was glorious and, as always, the festival was extremely well organised with a varied programme of events and speakers, including Stephen Fry and Germaine Greer. All agreed it should be made an annual excursion from the Bridgend club. **EB**

'Helping sick to get fit for work'

A NEW Government support service, designed "to help workers facing long-term sickness absence to return to their jobs more quickly", has gone 'live' in the Bridgend area.

"The free and confidential service, known as Fit for Work, will provide the services of occupational health professionals to employed people if they have been, or are likely to be, off work for four weeks or more," a spokesman said.

"Bridgend is one of the first areas in the UK in which GPs can offer their patients a referral to the new service, which includes an in-depth assessment, followed by a personalised Return to Work plan and managed support to get back to their jobs.

"The service, which is entirely voluntary for the employee, is intended to help the tens of thousands of people in Wales each year who are, or are likely to be, absent from work for more than four weeks due to illness or related issues.

"It will also help employers reduce the impact of long-term sickness absence on their businesses," he added.

ISOLATION AND LONELINESS CONCERNS FOR PENSIONERS

ISOLATION and loneliness concerns will be one of the key topics discussed at the Active Wales annual conference and rally in Porthcawl on June 3.

Hundreds of pensioners from across Wales are expected to attend the event, which will be held at the Grand Pavilion for the fourth year in a row.

Active Wales is the new brand name adopted by the National Old Age Pensioners Association of Wales.

John Davies, Chair of Active Wales says: "One of Active Wales's main aims is to promote the social inclusion of retired people by supporting our local branches.

"Sadly, we have seen a recent increase in local authority community centre closures which only increases social isolation.

"With isolation and loneliness affecting thousands of older people across Wales, our members will be taking action to push this all important topic forward.

"We're also excited to hear from the Chair of the Scottish Older People's Assembly about their experiences in raising the profile of older people's issues in the Scottish Parliament."

The Active Wales annual conference starts at 11am.

PACT meetings

BRACKLA PACT *public meeting will be held at Brackla Junior School, Brackla, Thursday, May 21 at 6.30pm.*

LITCHARD, PENDRE and COITY PACT *public meeting will be held at Gilead Chapel, Coity on Thursday, May 28 at 7.30pm.*

OLDCASTLE PACT *public meeting will be held at The Library, Brynteg Comprehensive School on Wednesday, June 3 at 6.30pm.*

MORFA TOWN PACT *public meeting will be held at Penybont Primary School, Minerva Street on Monday, Monday, June 8 at 6.30pm.*

BRYNTIRION, LALESTON and MERTHYR MAWR PACT *public meeting will be held at Laleston Gardening Club, Laleston on Thursday, June 11 at 7pm.*

Citizens Advice debt sessions

BRIDGEND County Borough's Citizens Advice Bureau is holding one-to-one sessions at KPC in Pyle, to give advice and help in dealing with debt, managing a budget, and benefit entitlements.

If anyone would like to book a slot at the sessions, which will run on a Thursday between 10 – 12 midday, call Alison on 01656 749219.

The next sessions will be held on Thursday, June 4 and 18, and from then on will run on the first and third Thursday of each month.

HIGH TIDE TIMES
(UNTIL JUNE 4)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
28 Thur	02.57	7.7	15.38	7.8
29 Fri	04.02	8.3	16.39	8.4
30 Sat	04.59	8.9	17.28	9.3
31 Sun	05.48	9.4	18.12	9.8
01 Mon	06.31	10.0	18.52	10.2
02 Tues	07.11	10.3	19.37	10.5
03 Wed	07.54	10.4	20.16	10.6
04 Thur	08.35	10.5	20.57	10.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

We abide by the code of practice upheld by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). This contains provisions for issues such as accuracy.

If you have a complaint, write to us at the address below, left, or call editorial manager Don John on 01446 774484. All complaints will be fully investigated. If you are not satisfied with the outcome, you may wish to contact IPSO c/o Halton House, 20-23 High Holborn, London EC1N 2JD. Website: www.ipso.co.uk. Tel: 0300 123 2220. E-Mail: complaints@ipso.co.uk. Enquiries: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

MAN HAD BUTCHER'S KNIFE ON SEAFRONT

PEDESTRIANS became disturbed when they saw a man on Porthcawl esplanade holding a butcher's knife with a 12-inch blade, Cardiff Crown Court heard.

The police were called and Jamie Patterson was arrested shortly afterwards.

Patterson, 24, of no fixed address, admitted possessing an offensive weapon. He was sentenced to one year's imprisonment and was told by Judge Huw Rees:

"You must understand you can't carry such knives in public, and it's not the first time you've done this.

"This is regarded by the courts as a serious offence."

Prosecutor Nuhu Gobir said that, on the night of December 4, the police were called to Porthcawl Esplanade near the Seabank Hotel, where they saw Patterson holding the knife.

He was handcuffed and taken to Bridgend police station, where he said: "I've been having problems following a bad break-up."

He added: "The pressure got to me."

He also said he had thought about cutting his ex-partner's throat, and "seeing her squirm".

The court heard Paterson had a previous conviction for carrying a knife in Merthyr Tydfil.

His barrister, Jeremy Jenkins, produced two psychiatric reports and said: "He suffers from a borderline personality disorder, which is not treatable.

"He has had a wretched lifestyle."

Man had 'white powder on his face'

SECURITY staff at a Bridgend club became suspicious when they saw a customer with traces of white powder on his face, Cardiff Crown Court was told.

Jordan Roberts was later found to be in possession of a class A drug.

Roberts, 24, of South Street, Ynyshir, admitted being in possession of cocaine.

He was sentenced to a community order for a year and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work.

For the breach of a suspended sentence of eight months, imposed for possessing cannabis with intent to supply, he was fined £100.

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said security staff at the Sax Club, Derwen Road, Bridgend, became suspicious when they saw a white powder on Roberts' face.

He was detained and searched, and in a plastic bag was found a quantity of cocaine.

"He denied that the substance was his and claimed someone else had put it into his pocket" said Mr Greenwood.

His counsel, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "At the time, he was out celebrating the birth of a child. He had on him only one gramme, which was worth about £10. At the time, his judgement was impaired by alcohol.

"This matter has impacted greatly on his family."

Recorder Huw Rees told Roberts: "You have been interested in drugs for some time and prison could inevitably follow, but there are mitigating circumstances.

"The quantity was one gramme, you made admissions, and you have given up drugs."

He advised Roberts to "learn his lesson."

Cannabis was grown on industrial estate

WHEN police searched a unit at the Brackla Industrial Estate, Bridgend, they discovered a dozen cannabis plants growing in a shed behind the premises.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Steven Watts, 29, a £350 pound-per-week scaffolder of Treorchy, pleaded guilty to producing the drug.

He was sentenced to a one-year community order, ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work and to pay costs of £340.

Recorder Huw Rees told him: "I could quite easily sentence you to imprisonment, but I am giving you a chance. Be very careful about drugs."

Prosecutor Julian Greenwood said the police went to a unit on the estate occupied by Watts and in a shed at the rear of the premises, they discovered the plants.

Mr Greenwood said: "Some were to fund Watts' own habit, and the rest were for financial gain.

"There was an element of commerciality."

Mr Greenwood told the court police became suspicious because of the strong aroma of cannabis. In the shed, was a ventilation and hydroponic system.

When arrested, Watts admitted being responsible for the plants, which he said had been given to him by friends two months before.

The prosecutor said the crop would have been worth between £4,200 wholesale and up to £12,600 if sold on the street.

Watts' solicitor Rhodri Chudleigh said his client had been taking a "significant amount of cannabis".

"Since his arrest, he has stopped taking the drug – that chapter in his life is now closed.

"He was foolish and has learnt his lesson."

Care home wil be marking Dementia Awareness Week

Residents enjoy a spot of singing and dancing in a 1950s themed photo booth at the home

RMBI care home Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Mid Glamorgan, has taken part in Dementia Awareness Week, the national campaign organised by Alzheimer's Society.

From May 17-23, staff and residents at the care home are taking part in a variety of activities focusing upon the 1950s era including a Coronation vintage tea party, a rock and roll show and dining in a 1950s themed burger diner.

At the start of the week, residents took part in a 1950s quiz, themed boules and movie marathon. The highlight of the week was on Wednesday where staff have organised a Coronation vintage tea party and residents shared stories of fond memories from the decade.

The week's events will round off with a meal in a transformed 1950s themed burger diner at the home complete with a barbeque.

Rebecca Timms, business administrator at Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court, said: "We always look forward to Dementia Awareness Week which is a great opportunity to raise awareness, understanding and support for people living with a dementia and their families.

"The week's events help to bring together staff, residents and families through fun, engaging activities, as well as build upon our strengths and skills as a team," she explained.

Art society's exhibition

THE Tondu and District Art Society holds its summer exhibition 2015 in the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig CF32 9RF on June 13 – 16. Times are 10am – 6pm, except Sunday (11am – 4pm). Free entry – light refreshments, raffle.

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LIB-DEM AM HITS AT FALL IN RECYCLING

LIB-DEM AM Peter Black has hit out at BCBC, following "yet another fall in the local authority's recycling rates".

In the final quarter of 2014, he said Bridgend reused, recycled or composted just 49 per cent of its municipal waste – a fall of 6 percentage points on the same quarter of 2013.

"This is despite a one per cent fall in the amount of waste produced by Bridgend residents, from 15.400 tonnes in October-December 2013 to 15,200 in the same period of 2014.

"The Welsh Government have said that every local authority should reach recycling rates of 58 per cent by the end of 2015, or face a £100,000 fine for every one per cent under that target. Based on current levels, Bridgend Council will be facing a fine of around £900,000 unless rates improve."

The regional AM for south Wales west went on: "When across Wales recycling rates are on the up, and less waste is being produced by Bridgend residents, there is absolutely no excuse for recycling rates to be decreasing.

"Yet these latest figures show that this Labour-run council is failing to hit its targets."

Advice surgery

THE Welsh Liberal Democrat Assembly Member for South Wales West, Peter Black, will be holding an advice surgery tomorrow (Friday May 29) at Pyle Life Centre from 2pm to 3pm.

No appointment is necessary.

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'A woeful breach of trust' – *judge*

Two women jailed for £65K burglary

CROWN COURT REPORT
by AJ SICLUNA

TWO women who raided a Vale of Glamorgan country house and made off with jewellery worth more than £65,000 including a £12,000 Cartier watch, have each been jailed for two years, three months at Cardiff Crown Court.

Judge Philip Richards said the pair had "targeted an innocent victim" when she was taking her children to school.

Paula Miles, 34, and Claire Gimblett, 40, a mother of two, of Peacehaven, Tredegar, each admitted a charge of burgling Porthkerry House.

Said Judge Philip Richards: "It was a very mean, very serious offence, committed against a woman who lived with her much-loved two children.

"You invaded their home and stole valuable property."

He added: "There was a degree of planning and others were blamed by you."

Prosecutor Matthew Cobb said: "This was an offence of some gravity."

He said the couple had appeared before Cardiff Crown Court last year and denied the charge, but the trial was aborted when the defendants took an overdose.

He said the victim, Mrs Vanessa Barker, lived at Porthkerry House which is in an isolated position.

At one time Miles had worked for her as a cleaner.

She finished her employment in 2013 but worked for her occasionally.

"She remained on friendly terms with Mrs Barker and purported to be her friend."

He added, "There was a cynical effort by Miles to exploit her so-called friendship and establish when the house would be empty."

He said that Miles knew Mrs Barker left home before 7.30am to take her children to school, and she also knew where the jewellery was kept.

Mr Cobb said Miles was in a relationship with Gimblett. They lived in Tredegar and travelled a considerable distance to commit the burglary.

On January 20, 2014, they drove to the house and parked near Porthkerry parish church.

Miles had a key to the house and used it to gain entry.

"Once inside, they helped themselves to jewellery worth more than £65,000.

"Builders who were working on the drive assumed they were staying in the house legitimately, but when they saw the new cleaner a little later, they raised the alarm and realised there had been a burglary."

He said that in their haste to get away, Miles and Gimblett dropped their car keys in the garden.

Shortly after they began to make efforts to sell the jewellery, and contacted a jeweller in Bath in an effort to sell a £12,000 Cartier watch.

Mr Cobb said that a CCTV unit near the church filmed their car arriving at 7.29am.

Mr Cobb said the offence had severely affected Mrs Barker and giving evidence at the earlier trial had been enormously distressing.

Not only were the items of high value, but they were priceless in sentimental terms.

Mrs Barker had explained that she did not have contents insurance, and therefore lost over £65,000.

Geoffrey Jones for Miles, said: "She has lost everything including her good name."

Stuart McLeese, for Gimblett, said: "The offence was totally out of character and she has constantly expressed remorse."

He added: "She will never trouble the courts again for what was a moment of madness."

The judge told Miles she had been the architect of a heinous crime and had displayed a woeful breach of trust.

Oldcastle ***PACT***

The Oldcastle PACT meeting will be held in Brynteg Lower School Library at 6.30pm on Wednesday, June 3.

The meeting provides the opportunity for the local policing team, councillors, partners and the community to discuss local issues and concerns and what the local priorities will be over the coming weeks and months.

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Summer treat from Tabernacl Music Society

ON the evening of Sunday, May 17, at Tabernacl Chapel in Bridgend, the Tabernacl Music Society, under the baton of Matthew Nash, performed the society's summer concert.

Soprano Emma Laidlaw-Height was accompanied by Rhiannon Hale.

The concert was compered by Eirianwen Stanford and opened with a rousing performance of 'Finlandia' (Sibelius) by the orchestra. This was followed by Elgar's 'Spirit of England' when soloist Emma Laidlaw-Height joined choir and orchestra to give a beautiful performance, in keeping with the sadness and desolation of war.

The standard of performance was excellent, with the choir responding to the challenge presented by the relatively large orchestra by singing with great feeling.

The dynamic balance within the four parts of the choir was good, as was the intonation.

After a short interval, the programme included a pleasing mixture of songs from modern and classical composers, with choir, soloist and accompanying pianist and orchestra taking part.

The highlights of these were: 'Lift Thine Eyes' from Mendelssohn's *Elijah,* sung unaccompanied by the ladies of the choir, 'Chanson d'Amour' by Gabriel Faure performed by Emma Laidlaw-Height, accompanied by Rhiannon Hale, 'Little Suite No 1' by Malcolm Arnold performed by the orchestra, 'Some Enchanted Evening' by Rodgers and Hammerstein, 'Now is the Month of Maying' by Thomas Morley, 'Deep River', a negro spiritual, and 'Y Tangnefeddwyr' by Waldo Williams and Eric Jones – all performed by the choir and orchestra.

Tabernacl Music Society welcomes new choristers in all voices; see www.cor-tabernacl-choir.co.uk.

DAVID ROBERTS

Grant aid will boost the 'silver surfers'

THE May meeting of Coity WI was a very well-attended annual meeting, with area advisor Kath Mepham in attendance.

President Lyn Griffiths opened the meeting and reported on the events of the last month. Her report showed yet again how varied and successful our programme has been. There had been a visit to the Malvern Quilt Show – on a very wet day which was not allowed to dampen spirits – and a day at the Angela Gray Cookery School at Llanerch Vineyard, ably organised by Rita Williams. The Walking Group had an excellent day of walking in the Garw Valley.

Lyn advised us of coming events to look forward to, including the Bristol trip to see *Jersey Boys*, which will be followed by a meal in a popular Italian restaurant, a walk in Mumbles in June, and the visit of two of our members, Pat Anthony and Susan Thomas, to the centenary celebration garden party at Buckingham Palace. The craft class is increasing in popularity, with a varied programme. The next class will be with our own Terri Moore, who will be teaching pottery.

Vice-president Ann Mutton has made a successful application on behalf of Coity WI, to The Ford Britain Trust at Ford Bridgend. The trust allocates small grants to projects that provide clear benefits to local communities.

The Trustees agreed that Coity WI qualifies in this respect and awarded a grant of £250. This is to be used to buy a computer which will not only be essential to the committee, but will also be available to members as an introduction to the benefits of IT.

We hope to increase the number of 'silver surfers' in the club, to the mutual benefit of all the members. We are very pleased to receive this grant and to express our appreciation to the company.

Members accepted the resolution 'Failure to care- assessment of need in long term care,' and voted unanimously for Lyn Griffiths to continue for another year as president. We are very grateful that she has accepted.

Secretary Jean Rees summed up the activities of the past year, which were many and varied and seemed to include a surprising number of references to cream teas!

The next meeting will be on June 18, when the speaker will be Mrs Polly Davies, who will talk about the Fourth of July. The competition will be 'An American Souvenir'.

Coity WI meet at Gilead Hall, Coity on the third Thursday of each month at 7pm.

ES

Students rise to a Welsh Bacc challenge

BUDDING young entrepreneurs from Llangynwyd put forward their future business ideas at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Caerphilly.

They have been trialling the new-look Welsh Baccalaureate which will come into force from September, alongside a new qualifications regulation body, Qualifications Wales.

At Llangynwyd they worked on the enterprise and employability challenge and came up with an idea that dovetailed perfectly with this year's Eisteddfod as teacher Catrin Evans explained:

"As the Urdd eisteddfod is due to visit Bridgend in a few years' time we decided to set a challenge of developing a product to be sold on the eisteddfod field.

"We used the opportunity to research the Urdd's history and values, and organised for a local design and print company to come in to advise the students and give them an idea of what could work from a business perspective.

"The individual groups from each class had to present to their peers and the best groups were presenting their ideas at the Urdd Eisteddfod in Caerphilly to a select panel and then to public vote.

"The winning group could then see their ideas become a reality – a really thrilling prospect."

You can follow The GEM on Twitter - find us *@gem_news*

'BRAVO THE WELSH NHS!'

I ATTENDED Llandough Hospital today for an MRI scan and cannot speak highly enough of the way I was treated.

First, the appointment was for Saturday morning, saving time off work. I arrived early, but was seen very promptly and the whole procedure was over really quickly.

Secondly, as a sufferer from claustrophobia, I was really dreading the scan, but the radiographers were kindness itself and, as the scan was for my knee, I was able to have my head outside the machine, and they made sure I knew what was happening and why.

So bravo, the Welsh NHS and the people who work there, giving up their time on a sunny Bank Holiday Saturday. You turned my dread to delight!

Mrs Bramble Coppins,

Girls-only surfing event in Porthcawl

Professional surfer Corinne Evans is bringing her female-only 'Corinne's Surf Tour' to Porthcawl on June 6.

Corinne said: "Women's surfing is on the up with top female surfers really pushing the boundaries these days.

"The drive to get more women and girls into the sport is what I wake up for.

"I want to help them feel confident, both in and out of the water."

Surfer Corinne Evans is heading for Porthcawl.

The June 6 event will be held at Porthcawl Surf School, Rest Bay, Porthcawl.

For more information, go to www.corinnessurftour.com

Junior cricket team named

FRIDAY'S junior game for Pencoed cricket club is at Porthcawl (10-a-side) starting at 6pm.

It will be for the older boys (under-11 and under-12s) and the team for the game is: Daf Baker, Rohan Gear, Iesten (Pencoed), James McCann, Ben Hanks, Cody (Pencoed), Cole Short, Daniel Johnson, Harri Pascoe, Tom Freeman-Jones; Reserves - Ioan Whittington and Iesten Deere. **JH**

PACT meetings

SARN/BRYNCOCH PACT, June 1, at Sarn Life Centre at 7pm.

LLANGEINOR PACT on June 3 at the Richard Price Centre at 5.30pm.

BRYNCETHIN PACT on June 3 at Nazareth Chapel at 6pm.

BETTWS PACT on June 5 at Bettws Life Centre at 2pm.

BLAENGARW/PONTYCYMER PACT on June 5 at Pontycymer Boys and Girls Club, Victoria Street at 6.30pm.

MAESTEG EAST/WEST PACT on June 8 at Cwm Calon Day Centre at 6pm.

CAERAU PACT on June 8 at Noddfa Chapel at 6pm.

YNYSAWDRE Cuppa with a Copper on June 11 at Ynysawdre Community Hall, 2pm-4pm.

YNYSAWDRE PACT on June 17 at Ynysawdre Community Hall at 6pm.

PYLE/CEFN CRIBWR PACT on June 22 at the Talbot Institute, Kenfig Hill at 6.30pm.

ABERKENFIG/PENYFAI PACT on June 22 at Aberkenfig Social Club at 7pm.

CORNELLY PACT on June 25 at Cornelly Primary School at 6.30pm.

LLANGYNWYD PACT on June 30 at Llangynwyd Village Hall at 6pm.

Fundraising campaign continues for Jade Owen

THE fundraising group behind the campaign to help Jade Owen – a Bridgend teenager who needs an operation in America that could help her walk – have issued an update on their campaign.

Readers may remember that a few months ago we wrote about Jade Owen, a cerebral palsy sufferer, and her need to raise sufficient funds for her to go to America for a life-changing operation. We thought you may appreciate a little update.

For those who did not read our earlier article and do not know Jade's story, Jade is 17 now and was born with Diplegic Cerebral Palsy which means she is unable to use her legs and cannot, therefore, walk.

Jade is still waiting for her operation and it is hoped that she will soon be in a position to travel to St Louis, Missouri, USA where Dr Park from the centre of world excellence for this condition will perform an operation to help Jade to walk.

Dr Park performs an operation called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR); he has performed this operation over 2,000 times with an enviable 100 per cent success rate.

In simple terms, dead nerve endings are cut away from the spine to permit the 'good' nerves to perform more effectively.

This improves posture and allows the patients to get their feet flat on the ground which, in turn, allows them to walk unaided. However, due to Jade's age she will have to have another operation first to sort out the leg ligament lengths.

We really would like to express our sincere thanks to all those who have already donated to this very worthwhile cause. It really is much appreciated by Jade and her family.

Bridgend Rotary Club has been active in donating and we would like to thank them for their recent donation of £200 which has helped enormously.

Any donations will be appreciated. If you wish to donate then please just Google Jade or go to the Tree of Hope/JustGiving Website: *https://www.justgiving.com/Jade-Elizabeth-Owen/* to make a donation.

The Tree of Hope is the registered charity which is assisting Jade to raise the required funding. Don't forget to tick the gift aid box, as this will ensure your donation will help Jade fulfil her dream of being able to be able to walk and be like the rest of her friends.

AD

A new pond is all in a single day's work at Caerau garden!

BRIDGEND Communities First has been working with Caerau Community Growers, and the energy company Egnida, to develop the Caerau market garden allotment site.

Volunteers laying foundations for the wildlife pond.

As part of 'Give and Gain Day', 26 local businesses, community members and partners recently worked from 7am in the morning until 7pm in the night to develop the market garden.

The Business in the Community's 'Give and Gain Day', which was held on Friday, May 15, was a celebration of the power of employee volunteering, championing the talent, skill and energy found in business and the role it can play in helping communities prosper.

Andrew James, chairman of Caerau Community Growers, said: "It was wonderful to see such fantastic community support. A big thank you to Egnida Ltd for making the day possible. In just one day we built a wildlife pond and raised bed area for community growing. A big thank you to all involved."

The allotment site now has a community space with a wildlife pond, a viewing platform and more raised beds for new members, local schools and nurseries to grow fresh vegetables.

Bridgend Communities First said: "As this project offers the only local venue for health and wellbeing activities linked to community food growing, Bridgend Communities First was very keen to support Andrew in developing the market garden."

A spokesperson from Egnida said: "Egnida were delighted with the result from the Give and Gain Day. There was an overwhelming amount of support from local businesses, making the rejuvenation of the community garden possible."

Bridgend choir renews American link that began with Paul Robeson

ONCE again Bridgend Male Choir hosted a well-received concert at St Mary's RC Church in Bridgend, to support Prostate Cymru.

Annually, 11,000 men's lives are claimed by this dreadful disease and the choir stood proudly alongside Rutgers University Glee Club from New Jersey, USA in a joint concert to help raise funds for this charity.

A church filled with members of the public waited in anticipation for the arrival on stage of these two prestigious choirs, with a more mature Bridgend Male Choir giving the young Rutgers choir of 76 (all under the age of 25) a run for their money.

Compere Gareth J Davies announced the itinerary for the first part of the evening and welcomed his namesake, Gareth W Davies who was making his debut appearance. The concert opened with *The Star Spangled Banner*, to loud applause. Then came *Men of Harlech, Yfory* (Tomorrow), and *Pan Fo'r Nos Yn Hir* (When the Night is Long and the Dawn is Far Away), sung very softly building up to a wonderful crescendo in this beautiful haunting Welsh love song, under direction from Rhiannon Williams Hale, accompanied by Steph Bailey and organist Scott Williams.

Compere Gareth informed the audience that the visiting choir were the largest number of Americans seen in Bridgend since 1944; 71 years ago General Dwight D Eisenhower reviewed the 109th Field Battalion, a part of the 28th US Infantry Division at Newton Burrows, Porthcawl.

The 109th were billeted just 500 yards from the church at Island Farm and departed for D-day on April 30, 1944.

Bridgend Male Choir continued with *Aus Der Traube,* a German song sung with hearty uplifting voices. Following this, they sang *Casatchok*, a 1938 Russian army partisan song, and the last song before the interval was *Rhys*, a Welsh hymn composed by WJ Evans in honour of his father.

Rutgers University Glee Club with their musical director, Dr Patrick Gardner came onstage with Paul Conrad, accompanist. Many of their songs were *a capella*, sometimes with a little percussion and quite amazing harmonies.

These included *Spaseniye Sodelal* (Ave Maria) with 10 of their tenors singing from the back of the church harmonising with the rest of the choir at the front on stage.

They received a standing ovation. They finished with a Welsh song, *Dacw 'Nghariad* which left many of the audience wondering how they were able to do so when not Welsh-speaking!

BMC came back onstage singing a couple more and *Rhythm of Life* brought the house down.

BMC's polished compere proceeded to tell of a young man called Paul Robeson, one of the foremost African Americans of the 20th century, who began his studies at Rutgers University exactly 100 years ago in 1915.

Robeson had a strong connection with Wales, which stretched back to the late 20s when he met a group of miners singing on a hunger march in 1938. He spoke and sang at a great rally held in memory of Welshmen who had been killed in action with the International Brigade in Spain. It was no surprise that Robeson should enjoy such a warm affinity with south Wales' miners, as they shared a common philosophy and a vision of a fairer, more peaceful world.

Having made the film *The Proud Valley* in the mining village of Tonyrefail, he won the respect of the Welsh and became a working class hero. He was unable to travel because his passport had been revoked, but was able to participate in the South Wales Miners' Eisteddfod at Porthcawl in October 1957 via a transatlantic telephone audio link.

BMC chorister, Roger Price managed to get a soundtrack of that historic telephone call. We all sat in awe as it was played. Rhiannon MD explained it wasn't as easy to do in those days as it is now. Robeson was able to speak and sing to his admirers, among them the Treorchy Male Choir, with conductor John Hayden Davies. Will Paynter then president of the South Wales NUM, directed the proceedings.

The Bridgend choristers heartily sang *American Trilogy* followed by *Amen* (This Little Light of Mine) again with a standing ovation and *Gwahoddiad* (I Hear a Gentle Voice Calling to Me).

BMC presented five CDs and a Bridgend Male Choir plaque to Dr Gardner and they in return presented Gareth, Rhiannon and the president with baseball caps from the university. The Glee Club proceeded to enthral us with a powerful version of *Pikse Litaania* (Pour Thunder Pour); *Moon Indigo* with Paul Conrad playing piano, ending with *Got a Mind to Do It Right*, to tumultuous applause.

The evening finished with everyone standing to sing the Welsh National Anthem. Both sets of choristers and supporters went back to the Bridgend Athletic Rugby Club for a well hosted buffet and refreshments, and an 'afterglow' which continued late into the night!

CLAIRE DIXON

'Queen of romantic novels' developed love of stories during her Barry childhood

by GEM REPORTER

A Barry-born author has topped the Amazon Kindle contemporary romance novel list.

Sandra Mackness.

Sandra Mackness (73) who writes under the name Jill Barry, has been generating quite a following among people who enjoy downloading romantic stories using the latest technology.

Among her popular titles are *Devilish Delights*, *Love on the Menu, Homefront* – and *A Life Less Lonely* which recently secured her the number one spot.

Sandra's examination of relationships and people recovering from setbacks in life seems to strike a real chord with readers.

She explained: "I was once advised in writing a story 'don't make a character all shiny pants, we all have flaws'."

Although Sandra now lives in Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, her formative years were spent in Barry and it was at the town's library that she developed her love of stories and literature.

"My father Henry was born in Liverpool and my mother Lillian born in Chepstow. They both moved to Barry.

"My father started working in the docks. He later owned The Corner Garage on the current Kwik Fit site (just off Gladstone Road roundabout).

"I attended the local girls' grammer school and enjoyed spending lots of time in the library. I enjoyed reading the classics – comics too!"

After school Sandra took a secretarial course and worked as the assistant to the Butlin's entertainments manager in Minehead.

"I was once called to the reception to help a new arrival – the actor Jon Pertwee (of Doctor Who fame) who did a Sunday night variety show."

Sandra married her husband Tony in 1971 and the couple ran a guest house in Wiltshire.

As a child she had enjoyed writing stories and in the mid-nineties rediscovered that pleasure. She knew the actor George Baker of *I Claudius* and *Wexford* fame, who had TV writing credits and lived in her village. He encouraged her literary ambitions.

She sent a story to BBC Wiltshire Sound which was used and that gave her the confidence to pursue her interest in writing. She then wrote stories for women's magazines.

Her marriage was a happy one, but she was widowed in 1998.

"It was a big change. Sudden loss hits you and the ripples go on and on. At times you feel guilty and think 'should I be happy?'"

Sandra has examined some of these complex emotions in her novels.

She relocated to Wales with her new partner in 2000 and now spends her time writing and teaching creative writing to students via the internet as far afield as China, Spain, Ireland and Belize.

Having a public profile on the internet is important for an author and Sandra regularly tweets under the name Jill Barry to let friends and readers know all her latest news.

In her spare time she enjoys reading the American novelist Anita Shreve – "she writes lovely prose" – and Welsh writer Rosie Thomas. She is also a great follower of tennis.

Hog roast raises funds for the Nepal disaster

PORTHCAWL Male Choir recently organised a hog roast which was held at the ancient Prince of Wales Inn at Kenfig.

This event raised a total of £250 and was thoroughly enjoyed by both choristers and their guests. Gareth Maund, landlord of the inn gave the choir such a warm welcome that he was invited to nominate a deserving charity to whom this money should be donated.

He immediately nominated the Nepal Disaster Fund, a charity for which he was already collecting from his customers by means of a bucket on the bar.

Gareth was invited to receive a cheque for the fund at a choir practice where the presentation was made by Phillip Tew, social secretary, who organised the event and choir chairman, Roy Bowen.

Gareth thanked the choir and said that his customers had already donated a considerable sum and this additional donation from the choir provided an even greater and very welcome boost.

The 'Prince' is owned by the trustees of Kenfig and is a building that dates back several centuries. It has an interesting history and was visited by Prince Charles on a recent tour of Wales.

It is a place of legend, with strange unidentified sounds said to be heard from the upstairs building to the rear of the premises.

It attracts visitors from all over the world, as well as being very popular with the locals.

JW

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

LETTERS AND E-MAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER

IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.
An email address alone is not sufficient!
We will (*in certain circumstances*)protect a writer's identity, if requested.

GEM DEBATE: Last week, the Letters page raised important issues in the wake of an election result which saw a number of anomalies in the allocation of parliamentary seats, vis a vis votes cast for the various political parties. It has again called into question the fairness of the first-past-the-post electoral system. Here are readers' responses…

'IT'S NOW TIME FOR CHANGE'

TO advise those who do not know, anyone putting themselves forward as a candidate in a general election has to pay a deposit of £500 to take part.

If the candidate fails to gain five per cent of the vote, the deposit of £500 is forfeited.

In the recent Vale of Glamorgan contest, a seven-horse race, the victor Alun Cairns received 46.02 per cent of votes cast – a total of 51,293 people voted.

Three of the participants failed to receive five per cent of votes; they were David Morgan (Liberal Democrat), Alan Armstrong (Green Party) and Steve Reed (Cannabis is Safer than Alcohol); and consequently together they paid £1,500 to the election authority, whoever that is.

I appreciate the right of anyone to stand as a candidate, and it is their choice to throw money down the drain if they so wish, but with three of the candidates receiving together a total of 2,601 votes, it makes a mockery of the current voting system.

I believe that the time has come for change, because there is never a 'two-horse race' to justify first-past-the-post, though in those circumstances there would be no argument.

I believe that anyone wishing to be a candidate for the Welsh Assembly or Parliament should pay a deposit of £5,000 – and this sum would only be refundable if they achieved 7.5 per cent of the votes.

This would prevent idiotic candidates from standing, but better still it would allow only those, including well known parties, who considered they had a realistic chance of winning, or at least gaining 7.5 per cent of the votes.

Anyone preferring to protest about the country's governance only has to spoil their ballot paper to make their point.

FMD Knill,
Pendoylan.

'End the two-party political system'

NOW that the parliamentary dust has settled and MPs begin to bed themselves in, the whole voting system needs to be looked in the light of the representation of the smaller parties highlighted by Mr Goacher in The GEM.

The current Government has a majority of 12 and will find it difficult to implement legislation such as European issues where the *Labour Party and SNP are against a referendum.

I know from my own experience having worked alongside Ministers and MPs in the 1970s in Parliament that once the new brigade understand the parliamentary bible Erskine May, which Mr Salmond will be aware of, tactics such as blocking amendments will stretch the Government, as they no longer have the Liberal Democrats to rely upon.

The first past the post system is unfair when UKIP, who polled four million voters, only had one seat, while the SNP with five per cent of the vote gained 57 seats.

The present Government has only 26 per cent of the vote.

I feel it would benefit all parties, as it has done in Germany which has had PR since 1945 and it works very well. The proposal of PR in 2011 was not very specific.

I know that the Electoral Reform Society have started a campaign.

It is time to look at an alternative to the two-party state and lean more to consensus politics and a fairer society.

Roy Chappell.

**GEM note: The Labour party has since withdrawn its opposition to a referendum.*

'Electoral system has passed sell-by date'

OUR electoral system has passed its sell-by date, I think it needs radical reform from beginning to end.

Selecting candidates for election should be a process that is transparent, fair, vigorous, have wide democratic credibility, and not be founded on ideology.

Successful candidates are paid from the public purse, so the selection process should be based on merit – and be publicly and legally accountable.

Wider democratic participation is urgently needed: it is time to stop talking about how to involve the young or the disconnected voters, we need action which encourages them to vote.

Politicians themselves need to confront their poor brand image before we can look to use technology which I believe would be the way to engage non-voters.

Computers and mobile phones are in constant use to communicate, pay bills, shop and bank, so what's the problem with using them to vote? Reforming elections would send out a message that decision takers really do care about voting apathy: the crocodile-tears from those in power fools nobody.

The media and political tribe's focus on marginal constituencies is a direct consequence of the unfair first-past-the-post system: we need to change it so that voters in safe seats do not feel their vote was a complete waste of time.

In addition, there is plenty of evidence, following the last election, that FPTP is a bankrupt way of choosing our elected representatives: just look at some results in Wales. Plaid with 12.1 per cent of the votes returned three MPs, the Liberal Democrats with 6.5 per cent got one MP, but UKIP with 13.6 per cent has no MPs.

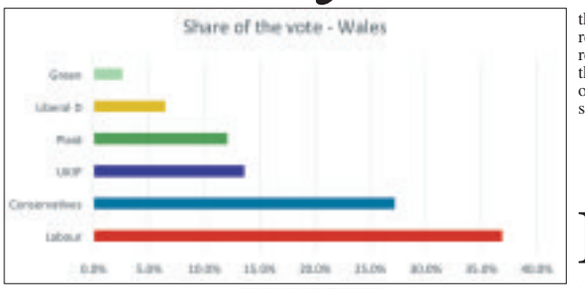
I no longer support any political party, but I can see that this outcome is ridiculous and undemocratic.

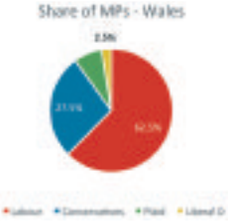
The new UK Government was elected by just 36.9 per cent of the 66 per cent who bothered to vote.

An analysis by the Electoral Reform Society shows that of the 31 million people who voted on May 7, 19 million of them (a lot more than half) voted for losing candidates.

And that's what we call democracy!

Dennis Harkus
FocusBARRY Member





ABOVE and LEFT: ????????

'Democracy in action'

CHRIS GOACHER (Letters page, last week) bemoans the lack of democracy, yet condemns as gullible those who exercised their democratic right to vote UKIP.

Similarly, Mr N Westerman described those who voted Green as "misguided", but what can we expect from someone who also used every media myth and cliché to describe the Tories?

Is democracy lacking in the UK? Not really. What is lacking is a trust in politics and politicians.

Let us suppose, just for a second that we had full turn-outs at election time and not the 66 per cent that we had at the general election. Incidentally, this was the highest turnout for 18 years.

Had the 34 per cent who did not vote actually turned-out on the day, what impact would that have had?

We shall never know, but it is reasonable to assume that some, if not many, seats would now be in the hands of different political parties.

I seem to recall that we had a referendum on changing the UK voting system just four short years ago. The turn-out was 42 per cent, and there was a resounding rejection of the proposed change. Again, democracy in action – that is, unless one did not agree with the result!

Rather than change the voting system, which would tend to benefit the smaller and fringe parties, perhaps we should change to a compulsory voting system.

Democracy and compulsory voting – now there is an oxymoron – but it might just work.

John A Turner,
Rhoose.

Unfair system: 'gap is widening'

OF course, the voting system isn't fair – that's been said for many years; almost four million people voted for UKIP and have no representation.

Many, including myself, voted for them mainly to register their deep discontent with the two major parties, who simply do not listen to the views of ordinary people.

Cameron was voted in because the prospect of a Miliband/Sturgeon partnership was too terrifying to contemplate.

The Government and the wealthy people they represent, are not at the receiving end of services that have been scrapped or are falling apart at the seams, such as the NHS. Schools are overflowing.

This doesn't bother those who can afford private education. The gap between the well off and the working class is becoming Dickensian.

During the Heath regime, we entered the 'Common Market', which everyone thought was for trading purposes. We didn't know it was a con trick and the thin end of the wedge.

We won two World Wars at enormous cost, but because we are in the EU, every aspect of our lives is dictated by Brussels.

At least there is a proposed referendum on this, but heaven help us all for the next five years – and heaven help the foxes.

Diane Mitchell,
Barry.

Thank you to chick-knitters!

I WOULD like to thank everyone who has helped me raise an amazing £3,000 for the Velindre Chick Knit Appeal.

Thank you to my family and friends who have knitted chicks and bunnies, the shops, hairdressers, cafés, friends and the Enfys Craft Fayre who sold them and, of course, the many people who have purchased them once again this year.

The Chick Knit Appeal has raised approximately £1.3 million since it started in 1997, with all proceeds used to support patients at the Velindre Cancer Centre. An amazing 70,000 chicks were knitted and sold this year, with some being sent as far afield as the USA, France, Africa and Singapore.

More knitters are always required; the chick pattern can be obtained by download on *www.velindrecc.wales.nhs.uk/chick-knit--appeal-1* or by contacting Julie on 02920 196860.

Barbara Entwistle, Barry.

An adventure playground on Cefn Glas estate

CHILDREN living on a new housing development in Bridgend can look forward to playing on a state of the art adventure playground, thanks to a joint venture between Bellway Homes Wales and Valleys to Coast housing association. It is one of the focal points of Wood Green, a 116 house development in the Cefn Glas area. The play equipment has been designed to naturally lead children of all ages into more outdoor activities using trees, bridges and paths through the wooded area – and will be one of the focal points of the new housing development.

"The park, which opened in April provides a more imaginative solution to play provision on the estate, and the developers hope it will be a focal space for the community," said Rachel Morton, community regeneration officer at Valleys to Coast.

"Working with play specialists Playdale and social enterprise Cwm Tawel, V2C have been able to create a fantastic adventure playground which incorporates the woodland surroundings and leads children into more outdoor activities using a bridge and trees. The project ties in with our Open Space strategy for improving the environment in our communities along with the quality of our homes."

'Keep your bank details to yourself!'

I RECENTLY had a telephone call from a man inviting me to partake in a survey about my overall health, and what treatment, if any, I've received via the NHS.

Having recently undergone an operation on my hand by Dr Shewring, and his excellent orthopaedic team at Llandough Hospital, I was happy to agree.

For fully 20 minutes, I answered virtually dozens of questions in which the caller discovered I'm 70 years old, in reasonable good health, live in the Vale with my wife Elly, our black Lab and our two cats, did six years in the Paras, and have written two books.

All was amenable until the caller casually mentioned that in middle eastern countries, the pomegranate is known as 'the fruit of the heart' due to its health-giving properties. Because boiling them into a liquid degrades these properties, his firm can provide a strong extract of pomegranate in pill form for £20 (reduced to £15 due to my being a pensioner). All I need to do to receive these pills in the post is to provide my credit card details.

Suddenly hearing alarm bells, not to mention being somewhat annoyed that what seemed an innocent survey was, in fact, a telephone sale, I politely informed him I never give out such details to a perfect stranger, and promptly terminated the call.

Staring down at the phone, waiting for it to ring, which it did in mere moments, when the caller stated, rather beseechingly, that this was a time for mutual trust, and there was no danger whatsoever in providing my card details, I very firmly advised that he 'go away' and not ring back, which he hasn't.

The essence of the story is NEVER, under any circumstances, provide your bank details to those who painstakingly gain your confidence during a telephone call.

Finally, at a cost of one pound, I chopped up two pomegranates, ran them through my juicer and gulped them down. Very refreshing – but I'm a bit concerned about the two horns starting to grow either side of my forehead...?

Barrie David Corcoran,

You can follow The GEM on Twitter - find us *@gem_news*

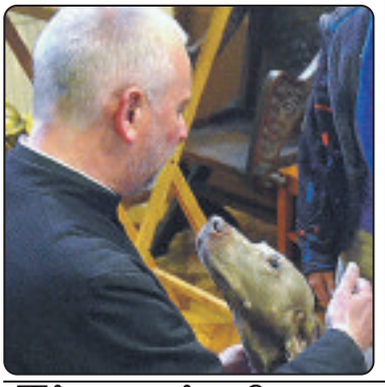
'ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL' BLESSED AT PETERSTON-SUPER-ELY

Photographs by
IAN DIXON

ON Sunday, May 10, there was a special service to bless and celebrate animals at St Peter's Church, Peterstone-super-Ely.

The church was packed with parishioners and a wide range of pets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, horses and guineau pigs.

The pets all behaved impeccably thoughout the lively service, led by Father Martyn Davies, which included readings and handbell ringing from local schoolchildren.



Fine win for under-14s

BRIDGEND Town CC under-14s were away to local rivals Tondu at Bryn Road; Bridgend lost the toss and were put into bat.

Tondu opened the bowling with Mid Glamorgan County pair of D Thomas and I Parsons, but the Bridgend opening batsmen H Evans and O Johns cautiously negotiated the first few overs.

They then built an excellent opening stand of 70, Johns being run out for a well-crafted 32 by W Richards, which brought the big hitting E Biebrach to the crease, who smashed a quick 15 runs before being run out by S Goodwin.

H Evans continued his excellent early season form and was bowled by D Thomas for 37 with J Hayes out for fiv to a fine diving catch by D.Thomas off I Parsons' bowling. Bridgend finished their innings on 125 for 4 wickets off their 20 overs.

The Tondu batsmen found it hard to score off the Bridgend opening bowlers J Hayes and C Hart, with only six runs off the first four overs.

All of the Bridgend bowlers had a turn, D Roderick with a maiden spell but the stand out performer was A Dalton who took 3 wickets off his 3 overs for 12 runs. A final mention for debutant S Humphries, son of Bridgend Town batting legend Grant, who was excellent in the field.

Tondu finally reached 76 for 5 off their 20 overs resulting in a 49-run win for Bridgend.

***TEAM**: E.Biebrach, L.Cogbill, A.Dalton, J.Davies, H.Evans (c/wk), C.Hart, J.Hayes, S.Humphries, O.Johns, D.Pritchard, D.Roderick.*

JH

HOTEL INVESTMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The news was greeted with delight by local resident and chair of the Porthcawl Harbourside Company, Mike Clarke, who said: "It is excellent news that Porthcawl will retain this unique hotel in a prime harbour-side position.

"Under local management and with a new business model and supported with new investment, the hotel will reflect the modern needs of its customers with a strong commitment to the community'.

The hotel is currently undergoing refurbishment, but is taking bookings for mid-July onwards on 01656 785375 or via www.glamorganholidayhotel.com

Beer festival in Llantwit

THE Old Swan Inn in Llantwit Major has announced the first in a series of summer beer and cider festivals – over three days, May 29 to May 31.

It all starts at lunchtime on Friday with the opening of the first keg. During the festival, food will be served until late from The Old Swan's kitchens.

The festival will include a plethora of different ales and ciders, many from Welsh brewers, including Otley, Waen, Untapped, Grey Trees, Tiny Rebel, Purple Mousse, Gower, and Vog.

Local bands will also be playing at the festival, including Rock 'n' Soul, Aled Hughes, The Rookz, and Seafall.

The Old Swan Inn's manager, Dave Moll, said: "Our May festival always has a fantastic atmosphere, as people start to enjoy the warmer weather.

"As usual, we've got a wide range of beers and ciders on tap from a vast range of different breweries, many of them local, and we're expecting a great turnout. We can't wait!"

The Old Swan Inn recently launched the next collaboration beer in its ongoing series with Otley Brewery; named after manager Dave Moll, the 'Dogs Mollocks' is a bitter and hoppy amber beer, and is available now at the Swan.

The pub, which dates back to the 12th century, is part of the Knife & Fork Food group, which also includes The Conway in Pontcanna, The Pilot in Penarth and their latest venture, The Discovery, in Cyncoed.

Four speakers tackle the 'challenges of leadership'

THE Porthcawl U3A study day at the Hi-Tide proved a great success with 15 various U3A groups from as far away as Pembroke, Llandovery, Barry and Newport attending.

'Meeting the challenges of leadership' was the intriguing subject addressed by four very different leaders, who all face demanding challenges from contrasting organisations and institutions.

The first of the two morning speakers was Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer at the National Assembly for Wales in Cardiff, who has a powerful role in the Senedd. Her responsibilities as Chair of the Assembly include following Standing Orders, ensuring all parties have representation on committees and that back benchers get fair participation in the chamber.

However, her talk included many personal stories, such as her unplanned leap into local government. The small park in Newport where she often took her two small children to play had no public bench for mothers and her local councillors were not interested.

Exasperated, she stood at the next council election and not only won, but four weeks later the park had a new bench!

Paul Canning and Steve Jones from Wales Air Ambulance surprised everyone with details of this outstanding service which leases three advanced Eurocopters based in Caernarfon, Welshpool and Swansea. The motto 'Saving time is Saving lives', means an average emergency attendance takes just nine minutes and they can attend anywhere in Wales within 20 minutes.

From next month each crew will consist of pilot, paramedic and a consultant doctor all on call 24 hours a day, every day.

Delivering patients to hospital within the 'golden hour' greatly increases survival rates and within 14 years this charity has become the world's leading pre-hospital emergency care service, with its annual cost of £6 million funded solely by public donations.

After lunch, John Walmsley, principal of Atlantic College revealed what many think is Wales' best kept secret – the fascinating story and work of this world-renowned educational centre on our doorstep.

Founded in 1962 and co-founder of the International Baccalaureate, this college enables young people from over 90 countries and many cultures to live and study together. It seeks to inspire with challenging objectives and many successful former students have the ethos of Learn, Earn and Return in the form of sponsorship for new students.

Two engaging senior students, one from Swansea, helped attendees understand this very different educational approach by recounting their unusual experiences, academic interests and future aspirations.

The final talk on leadership was given by Colonel Lance Patterson, Deputy Commander 160 Brigade, Brecon, who ended a rewarding day by explaining the complicated challenges found in the modern British Army.

With their unique role of having to 'risk life and take life' known as the Covenant, leaders are continually questioning their function and core purpose, both at home and overseas in this fast-changing world.

Colonel Patterson stated that the British Army's weapons and equipment were the same as many opponents', but the British soldier was the best trained in the world and the army leadership was committed to transformational management.

GARY VICTOR (Porthcawl U3A)

Pat Munro U3A; Dame Rosemary Butler AM, and Handel Davies, chairman of Porthcawl U3A.

New BCBC computer system aims to tie up healthcare loose ends

RIGHT: Care workers Kirsty Lewis, Hayley Compton and Simon Williams join CareWorks chief executive Michael Dolan (left), Mark Drakeford and BCBC Deputy Leader, Coun Huw David (right) to launch the new Community Care Information Solution project.

A NEW multi-million-pound IT system aims to improve the speed and efficiency with which people in Bridgend county borough can receive health and social care services – if successful, it could benefit the whole of Wales.

The Community Care Information Solution project (CCIS) will bring together patient records and other essential details from a variety of different stand-alone systems, integrating them into one national system that aims to make it possible for information to be shared instantly between different health and social service providers.

Designed to cut down on waiting times, remove obstacles and improve the speed and efficiency with which people can receive health and social care services, the project has been funded by a £6.7m investment from the Welsh Government.

It is being led by Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) on behalf of the 21 other local authorities and seven health boards, as well as Public Health Wales, Velindre NHS Trust, Welsh Ambulance Service and the NHS Trust.

The funding will allow the authority to develop the first phase of the new system by buying the national hardware and all-Wales licences.

The Health and Social Services Minister Mark Drakeford AM, visited BCBC's Trem Y Mor centre in Bettws to launch the project.

He said: "This new system has been developed in response to the growing need to integrate health and social care. It will allow professionals in social care, community health and mental health to access and share information across organisational boundaries.

"The new system will make it easier for these services to work together."

During his visit, Professor Drakeford was given a demonstration of how the new system will work by CareWorks Ltd – the company that has been commissioned by the council to develop the CCIS project.

Coun Mel Nott, Leader of BCBC, said: "BCBC is proud to be acting as the lead local authority for this project.

"Moving away from individual stand-alone systems will be of particular use in supporting emergency and out-of-hours services, and will enable health and social care services to work in a closer, far more effective manner."

Deputy Leader, Coun Huw David added: "Our social services teams already enjoy an excellent relationship with their colleagues in health thanks to integrated hubs such as the Trem Y Mor centre, and this new system will make it possible for teams to be even more co-ordinated.

"Quite simply, CCIS is a game-changer, and one that I believe is set to benefit the communities we serve for many generations to come."

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WORKING WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO PREPARE FOR NEW POWERS FOR WALES

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by **Jane Hutt AM** *(Minister for Finance)*

OVER the past two weeks, I have been engaging with the business community in the Vale of Glamorgan and at a wider level as Finance Minister in relation to new powers and responsibilities coming to Wales.

At a local level, I was delighted to support the spring market on Saturday, May 16 in High Street, Barry which was blessed with good weather and many visitors as well as regular High Street customers like myself.

This was supported by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and High Street businesses, many of whom took part in the event. The event was such a success that another market is being planned for August 22.

It was also great to attend the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival on Sunday and Monday this week, and I was glad to welcome the grant of £5,000 awarded to the festival by the Welsh Government. As usual, I was filling my bags with the great produce on sale and on display from food and drink businesses in the Vale and further afield.

I would also like to pay tribute to Cowbridge resident, Christine Atkinson, who established the Vale Women's Business Network 12 years ago and has supported over 3,000 local women to set up in business.

She received the prestigious Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion last year at Buckingham Palace.

I praised Christine Atkinson who is head of the women's entrepreneurship hub at the University of South Wales, at a conference last week, to review the achievements of the WAVE programme (Women Adding Value to the Economy).

As a result of the EU-funded WAVE programme, more than 400 women in disadvantaged areas of Wales are looking forward to brighter career prospects following a three-year drive to boost women's involvement in entrepreneurship and traditionally 'male' occupations.

WAVE has shown that women can have a bigger stake in the economy, and programmes of this kind can help tackle the persistent gender pay gap.

As Finance Minister, I have also had the opportunity to meet with the Institute of Directors to discuss the Welsh Government's plans for tax devolution. The devolution of tax powers, brought about by the Wales Act 2014, represents a step-change for devolved government in Wales.

It has come about as a result of the work of the Holtham and Silk Commission – both of which recommended that Wales should have more powers over taxation and be able to borrow to boost our infrastructure.

High Street spring market in Barry was a big success.

Three years from now, in April 2018, we will be introducing our own taxes to replace Stamp Duty Land Tax and Landfill Tax and I have been consulting widely with business who will be affected by these changes like landfill site operators, waste and management businesses and house builders.

My Tax Advisory Group includes the business voice with the CBI, IOD and FSB involved – but also the voices of those who can make an important contribution with the Wales TUC, Welsh Local Government, and the Bevan Foundation also represented.

As the First Minister has said, the Welsh Government places enormous emphasis on working with the business community and with our social partners – that is the way we work best in Wales.

DENTAL MAVERICKS HELP 350 CHILDREN ON MOROCCO TRIP!

by GEM REPORTER

A 'Dental Mavericks' trip to Morocco, which involved two Barry health workers, has helped 350 children.

The charity is committed to ending daily dental pain for children in remote areas of the country which have not got access to modern dentistry.

Louise Bottomer, who lives in Barry, and Gareth Crowther, from St Mellons undertook the five day trip in early May.

Louise and Gareth, who work for Advance Dental Care, were lucky to even get in the country!

Gareth explained: "We were nearly barred from entry because we were designated 'of no fixed abode' – the officials were not very co-operative.

"Eventually, we were collected by a 4x4 from the airport and taken to a guest-house in Asni, a small village in the Atlas Mountains.

"Initially we were both very anxious about the language barrier, but the other Dental Mavericks were very supportive and helpful.

"We just learned to leave our dignity at the door and get as silly as possible because if you could get a smile or a giggle out of the kids you knew you'd won and they'd give you as much help as you gave them.

"The children were fantastic and so grateful for the help they received.

"Our local competition was a man working as a barber in the middle of the village souk (market) who with one unidentifiable instrument takes teeth out with local anaesthetic provided by tying the patient's hands to the chair.

"On the first day we set up clinic in the Asni Village School setting up basic but effective collapsible dental chairs and setting out and cold-sterilising the instruments. On the second day we moved the clinic across the valley to another village and set up in the Eve Branson Foundation classroom."

The Mavericks' clinic was split into two parts: triage, fluoride application and oral hygiene instruction, and treatment which sometimes involved taking teeth out.

Gareth took turns with the other dentists there assessing patients and finding out where any pain was located and deciding which teeth had to come out in the back room.

Louise took turns with the nurses applying the fluoride varnish and giving tooth-brushing instruction and assisting the extractions.

Louise said: "We worked with other dentists and nurses from around the country as far afield as Hull, Stafford, Liverpool and Kent which added to the fun and camaraderie in this group of 17 Mavericks.

"One of the hardest things to overcome was the local bureaucracy, not just in the airport but the visits from government officials who nearly stopped the two dental therapists from working altogether."

Fortunately, a compromise was reached.

APPRECIATED

Louise said: "The other issue encountered was the same official prohibiting the opening let alone the use of restorative equipment things, such as handpieces, portable suction and filling materials which had been impounded for 12 months in Marrakech port. Finally they were released.

"The official had needed four other colleagues to be present to open the machines and declare them safe to use!

"This was gutting to us all at the time because next year we could pretty much guarantee several children would be having their permanent front teeth extracted which for the sake of simple restorative treatment now would not have to happen."

Gareth said that their efforts were appreciated by people on the ground even if those in authority were less helpful.

"Several locals were willing to assist our mission at considerable inconvenience to themselves and put the Moroccan Government to shame.

"The mayor put us up in his home, the caretaker of the school helped set up the clinic, and the Eve Branson Foundation's local co-ordinator helped smooth things over with the officials and drove us from and to the airport.

"A local teacher helped to interpret and drove vehicles, and the lady who ran the local café helped with triage and made us our lunchtime tagines!

"We would both describe the trip as the most physically tiring and emotionally draining thing we've ever done in the field of dentistry, but probably the most rewarding, and we'd love to go back and do it again.

"Dental Mavericks is a fantastic cause and well worth supporting and we would like to extend our warmest thanks to all who donated or bought raffle tickets in support of the equipment and materials.

"The collapsible dental chairs, though basic, are £800 each, not to mention the cost of local anaesthetics, wipes, bibs, and kidney bowls.

"In the end the results speak for themselves with 350 children treated and hopefully the basic oral hygiene instruction will leave some legacy."

If you want to support the Dental Mavericks cause, please visit: http://uk.virginmoney giving.com/team/ AdvanceDental.

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Huw meets descendants of pioneer Welsh settlers

IT'S 150 years since the Welsh set sail across the Atlantic on board the *Mimosa*, in search of a new life in South America.

To mark the anniversary, Huw Edwards embarks on a 7,000-mile journey to Patagonia for the first time.

In the programme *Patagonia Huw Edwards* on S4C, Huw meets some of the descendants of the first settlers who were part of one of the greatest adventures in Welsh history.

The founding fathers dreamed of building a new Wales across the ocean as a safe haven for the Welsh language, but by the early years of the last century, there were more communities from other countries there,and the Welsh were outnumbered.

Huw, who first heard about the history of Patagonia 40 years ago when at primary school in Llangennech said: "I've travelled the world in my capacity as a journalist and broadcaster, but this is the first time I've experienced the Welsh life in Chubut Province in southern Argentina."

The programme on Sunday evening, May 31 explores the prospects for the Welsh language in the colony and asks what the future holds for the culture the pioneers strived to protect? We see Huw Edwards playing a hymn on the organ – an instrument brought over to Patagonia in 1865 with the pioneers.

Dafydd Rhys, S4C director of content, said: "This authoritative documentary by Huw Edwards, one of the leading Welsh broadcasters of our generation, will be the best possible taster for the season that is scheduled to mark the 150th anniversary of the landing in July. We are delighted to be working closely with the BBC and many other organisations to make this national celebration truly memorable."

Celebrations will be held in Wales and Patagonia to mark the anniversary and in addition to *Patagonia Huw Edwards* on S4C, *Patagonia with Huw Edwards* will be broadcast on BBC1 Wales on Monday evening, June 1.

VOTE FOR YOUR LOCAL LANDMARKS IN NATIONAL TRUST WALES COMPETITION!

RADIO DJ Huw Stephens, fashion designer David Emmanuel and broadcaster Roy Noble are those backing south Wales locations to win this year's Special Places competition, as battle commences across the nation.

Last year's competition saw Penarth Pier and Pavilion clinch the top spot, with over 2,000 votes cast throughout the campaign.

Now, National Trust Wales is calling for the people of south Wales to nominate their Special Places across Cardiff and the Vale – to be in with a chance of winning this year's competition.

In a change from last year, the Trust has introduced five specific voting categories influenced by the diverse range of special places found across Wales. Each category is being championed by a celebrity ambassador who will be rallying the public to get behind their category.

The public are being urged to back their own Special Places within the five voting categories: Glorious Coast, Wild Open Spaces, Historic Buildings, Parks and Gardens and Quirky or Urban.

Iconic sites such as Barry Island, Dyffryn House and Gardens and Rest Bay could be in with a chance to win this year's competition.

Renowned designer David Emanuel is supporting Wales' coastline, championing Southerndown beach, in a bid to win the top spot.

On his special place within the Coast category, designer David Emanuel commented: "My special place in Wales is Southerndown Beach. I call it 'My Beach'. It means so much to me because I go there to escape, blow away the cobwebs, and breathe 'real' fresh Welsh air when walking across the beautiful bay."

Voting can be done online through National Trust Wales' website, Walesonline, Facebook, or by using the hashtag *#specialplaces* on Twitter or Instagram until July 14, after which a winner will be crowned in each category on July 20.

Voters can also cast their preferences by filling in forms at National Trust Wales sites including Dyffryn Gardens and Tredegar House and selected sites of partnering organisations including Castle Coch.

Once the five category winners have been announced on July 20, the five celebrities will then battle it out once again to see if their category winner can take the overall crown in a second round of public voting with the ultimate winner being announced on Friday, August 7.

The other celebrities are:

Matthew Rhys supporting Glorious Coast; TV presenter Matt Johnson, Parks and Gardens; Julien Macdonald, Wild Open Spaces; Sian Lloyd, Historic Buildings; and Colin Jackson, Quirky or Urban.

Tweet, Facebook or Instagram using #lleoeddarbennig / #specialplaces @NTWales or vote on Walesonline here: http://bit.ly/1E77Q1q on Facebook here: http://on.fb.me/1KJqw6g

Venture offers foodies a Welsh experience...

ABOVE: Sampling Welsh wine direct from the vineyard.

A NEW company, – 'Loving Welsh Food' (LWF) – was launched at Arboreal Restaurant in Cowbridge just before the town's food festival.

LWF director Sian B Roberts said the aim was to offer Welsh food and drink tours, safaris, and Welsh cooking workshops to groups visiting Cardiff and south Wales.

Two LWF tours are on offer at the moment: 'Welsh cakes and Wine'(half day), which can be combined with a morning visit to Cardiff, and the 'Welsh food and drink safari (full day).

Sian said: "It was great to see so many people at the event, all enjoying the delicious food and tasters, the fabulous Welsh wine, and the lovely, friendly atmosphere at Arboreal".

Sian received funding from Creative Rural Communities (CRC) to develop the Welsh Food and Drink Tours and Welsh Food Safaris.

ACRC spokesperson said: "We're delighted to see 'Loving Welsh Food' come to fruition and wish Sian every success. The Local Food Champion project at Creative Rural Communities supported the venture by funding a pilot tour last summer which led to the launch of LWF."

For more details, go to www.lovingwelshfood.uk

You can follow The GEM on Twitter - find us *@gem_news*

Minister officially opens historic Hensol Castle

PICTURED: (left to right) Stephen Leeke, managing director of the Vale Resort, Ken Skates, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Gerald Leeke, chairman of Vale Resort and Leekes.

THE Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Ken Skates, officially opened Hensol Castle last week (May 20), following a multi-million pound refurbishment programme to restore the historic castle to its former glory.

Unveiling a commemorative plaque to mark the official opening of Hensol Castle, Mr Skates was given a tour of the 400-year-old Grade I listed building, which is reopening to the public as a conference and wedding venue after the completion of the first phase of its £10 million refurbishment.

In the grounds of the Vale Resort, Hensol Castle offers conference facilities in the new Courtyard Hall, capable of hosting 320 delegates theatre-style and 200 delegates banquet-style.

There are five smaller meeting rooms in the castle itself, which can host between 10-100 delegates per room theatre-style. Phase two of the £10 million investment will include adding up to 30 bedrooms and a top-end restaurant and is expected to be open by late 2016.

The opening coincides with figures from the International Passenger Survey, undertaken by the Office for National Statistics, which shows that international visitors to Wales increased by more than seven per cent in 2014.

Mr Skates, said: "Hensol Castle gives the Vale Resort something very unique to offer their business and wedding clients. It is a high quality development which makes the most of the site's heritage and culture. I wish the team every success with this new development."

During his visit, the minister also saw the Welsh Rugby Union's on-site facilities at the Vale Resort, including its five rugby training pitches.

The Vale Resort is gearing up to host some of the world's most famous rugby teams this autumn, including Wales and France, plus a quarter-final knock-out team which could be any combination of France, Ireland, New Zealand and Italy, as it has been selected as an official team base for the 2015 Ruby World Cup.

As part of its preparation, the Vale Resort has invested £1 million in upgrading its 143-bedrooms, taking the total investment at the resort within the last year to £11 million.

Stephen Leeke, managing director of the Vale Resort, said: "The redevelopment of the castle has been one of the most important investments the Vale Resort has made to further strengthen its facilities. The historic castle adds another string to our bow by providing an alternative option from our current contemporary offering at the Vale Resort.

"With the conference and event market an important revenue stream for the Vale Resort, currently representing 25 per cent of our business, we anticipate significant growth in this sector on the back of reopening such a unique facility in south Wales. Since announcing the new refurbishment, we've already had interest from world-recognised businesses such as British Gas, Princes Gate, the Royal Mint and a number of medical and pharmaceutical companies."

Dating back to the 17th century, Hensol Castle is steeped in history.

Its previous owners include Samuel Richardson, who is credited with introducing the threshing machine to the world of agriculture and 'Big Ben', Sir Benjamin Hall, who was overseer of works for the installation of the clock tower at the Houses of Parliament, which is apparently named after him. The estate was purchased by the Leekes family, who own the Vale Resort, in 2003.

Hensol Castle had been closed to the public for almost a decade until 2014, when it was opened for weddings for the first time. Until then, it had only been used as a stage set for the television series Doctor Who, Sherlock Holmes and Torchwood.

PRE-SCHOOL PATH TO HEALTH

ABOVE; Rhianon Urquhart, principal health promotion specialist at Cardiff and Vale public health team, presenting a certificate to Jane Ward from West End Playgroup, Barry.

OVER 70 childcare workers in the Vale recently celebrated their success in helping to keep children and their families healthy.

The healthy and sustainable pre-school scheme aims to promote the health of pre- school age children, their parents and carers through physical activity and active play, mental and emotional health, and healthy environments.

PROMISING STUDENTS RECEIVE HUMAN RESOURCES AWARDS

Vivienne Wong.

Jordan Harris.

THE south-east Wales branch of the CIPD, the professional body for HR and people development, recognised the achievement of eight students from universities and colleges across south Wales, at its annual dinner recently.

The awards acknowledge the achievement of students who have been nominated by their course tutors to receive 'Branch Student of the Year' awards. Undergraduate, postgraduate and those attending on day-release on the professional courses are all eligible.

The prizes were sponsored by Anna Denton-Jones of Refreshing Law Limited, who presented them along with Frank Douglas, a CIPD non-executive board member.

The winners were:

- Lauren Evans and Abigail Powell from University of South Wales.
- Vivienne Wong, Bridgend College.
- Jordan Harris from Bridgend, and Caroline Davies, from Cardiff and Vale College.
- Lucy Aplin and Thomas Hewitt from Coleg Gwent.
- Rachel Cook from Cardiff Business School.

At the branch annual meeting held ahead of the dinner and awards, Lesley Richards stepped down as chair of CIPD South East Wales. The new CIPD South East Wales chair is Nerissa Williams, who runs an independent HR consultancy in Bridgend.

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TOMORROWLAND IS A PAEAN TO POSITIVITY AND POSSIBILITY...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

BRAD BIRD started off his career working in animation, helming *The Iron Giant* and then working for Pixar, directing the incredible *The Incredibles* and *Ratatouille*, before moving into live-action with *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol*.

Bird's latest film, *Tomorrowland*, stars Britt Robertson as Casey, who finds a mysterious pin badge that leads her to the home of reclusive inventor Frank (George Clooney). When Frank's home is ambushed by mysterious forces, the pair embark on a trip to the titular land, where they must team up to rescue the world from those who seek to use it for nefarious means...

It's a rare sight to see that a summer blockbuster takes inspiration not from a comic book or a computer game, or be a continuation or a reboot of a franchise, but moves at its own steam with its own ideas and sensibilities.

It's seen, these days, as a mark of danger to so heavily invest in something that may possibly lack 'brand awareness', but *Tomorrowland* is a film that makes you grateful that somebody somewhere is still capable of taking a gamble, as it is a film that is wondrous, beguiling, surprising and ultimately uplifting.

That it's a Disney film, directed by a man who made his mark in the world of animation, it's unsurprising that *Tomorrowland* is shot through with a sense of genuine awe and shock; it has all the hallmarks of those vibrant, underrated Disney live-action films of the late 1960s and early 1970s, the likes of *The Computer Wore Tennis Shoes* a stylistic influence.

You have the intelligent, yet marginalised teenager, capable of great things, if only the grown-ups would realise it, a story that unfolds at a breakneck pace, and, in the opening hour or so, rarely lets up for pace - its influences are clear to see, but it is shot through with 21st century concerns and touchstones.

It's clear that Bird and co-writer Damon Lindelof (he of, among other things, *Lost* fame) wanted to make something fresh, interesting and full of wonder, and they succeed in doing that superbly well. The film may be heavy with exposition, the first two-thirds of it layering it on with a trowel, but it rarely comes at the expense of the pace of the story.

The message of the film is also refreshing and uplifting - films that tend to push the message that nothing is lost, that things can be fixed, people redeemed, lives changed, often run the risk of being labelled idealistic and perhaps even simplistic, but here it's a virtue, giving the story a beautiful and heartfelt tone - it's a paean to possibility and positivity, to looking forward rather than back, and believing you can make a difference.

Bird's direction is tremendous, the emotional intricacies of the story balancing wonderfully with the spectacle and visual invention on show.

Whether it's the Eiffel Tower turning into a rocket, or the titular world realised in glorious technicolour, it's both astounding to look at and stunningly composed. Bird's grounding in animation means that there is a greater level of inventiveness here than most films, and Bird takes full advantage, the film looking superb, and carrying its narrative weight exceptionally well.

The performances are all on the button, Britt Robertson essaying the plucky Disney teenager with the right degree of sass and wide-eyed wonder; George Clooney seems to be enjoying working with less weighty fare and grants the film gravitas, Raffey Cassidy as the mysterious Athena walks the fine precipice of being earnest without being too annoying, with only Hugh Laurie striking a bit of a bum note as the man who lies behind *Tomorrowland's* curtain, though this is more due to the writing of the character than the actor himself.

It may skew a little older at times than it perhaps intends to, the concerns a little loftier when you dig beneath the surface, but the film's overarching intention - to inspire, to cultivate, to make you believe - comes through loud and clear; it may not be the summer's loudest effort, but *Tomorrowland* makes all the right noises - and says all the right things.

VERDICT - A blockbuster that hits all the right notes, *Tomorrowland* is one of the most beguiling, interesting and well-intentioned films of recent times. Its core message of positivity and possibility is refreshing, and Brad Bird's excellent direction makes this a feast for the eyes as well as the mind. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Journey To The Centre of The Earth* (2008), *Interstellar* (2014).

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Vale libraries: *opening times*

FROM June 1, the Vale's four main libraries will adopt new opening hours after a consultation with library users and residents found they wanted libraries to open six days a week.

The changes apply to Barry, Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, and Penarth libraries, with all four remaining open until 7pm for one day a week.

Barry library will open at 9.30am every day and close at 7pm on Mondays, 5.30pm from Tuesday to Friday, and 4pm on Saturdays.

Cowbridge, Llantwit Major, and Penarth libraries will all open at 10am and close at 5pm on weekdays and at 4pm on Saturdays; 7pm openings will be on Wednesdays at Cowbridge, Tuesdays at Llantwit Major, and Thursdays at Penarth.

Opening hours at Dinas Powys, Rhoose, St. Athan, Sully and Wenvoe libraries remain the same for the present.

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Vale Council faces legal fight over Rhoose library closure

AN expensive legal fight could be on the cards, after campaigners wanting to keep Rhoose Library open in its present form, announced that they would be seeking a judicial review of the Vale Council's plan

The Save Rhoose Library campaign group believes there are significant flaws in the way the Vale Council has conducted consultation over the future of the library and has secured legal aid for a judicial review in the High Court.

Campaigners claim the consultation conducted as part of the council's library strategy review was flawed and alternative ways of achieving budget savings were not adequately considered.

Under the council's strategy review, councillors voted to close Rhoose library – unless volunteers come forward to run it as a community-funded service.

The Save Rhoose Library campaign group has now appointed a specialist in administrative and public law, Michael Imperato of Watkins & Gunn Solicitors.

Last year, Michael Imperato was successful in working with Rhydyfelin Library Support Group when Rhondda Cynon Taff Council made a u-turn and decided to reopen Rhydyfelin library.

He said: "Many people now believe that everyone has access to the internet for information so that libraries are no longer as important as they used to be.

"This couldn't be further from the truth. For some people, libraries are their only resource they have.

"Not many people realise that you can challenge a local authority or government's decision in courts through a judicial review case but they are an extremely important way of holding a public body to account.

"There have been many successful challenges to library closures against councils across the UK and we hope to have a positive result with this case."

Adam Riley, one of the members of the Save Rhoose Library Campaign, said: "The council has systematically failed to professionally and effectively engage local people in the consultation.

"If these plans go ahead it will have a significant effect on people of all ages. Schoolchildren use it for research on projects, adults use the computer facilities to help with job searches and the elderly people say that the library is a vital way of keeping connected to the village.

"The council's disregard for the opinions of local people is shameful. We feel we have no choice but to challenge the council in the courts."

However, Jennifer Hill, the Vale Council's director of learning and skills, insisted: "The Council conducted a fully open and accessible consultation on our library strategy.

"We took great care to follow all relevant guidelines and can assure all that took part that their responses were fully considered before any decision was taken.

"We do not accept the claims made by the action group and fully intend to defend our position in the event of any legal action."

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CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Porthcawl Harbourside CIC, which is developing Porthcawl Maritime Centre on the Cozy Corner site, has launched the first of its Coastal Science and Discovery Outreach events and is looking for volunteers.

The acitvities will be held on beaches in Porthcawl during the coming summer months, and will include Porthcawl Porpoise Project. Beginning in June, it will track porpoise breeding progress in local waters.

There will also be a school beach activity and poster competition and Rockpool Rambles will be led by group leaders on a "voyage of beachside discovery" across the teeming rock pools. Contact Claire@porthcawl-harbourside.co.uk or by calling 01656 774341.

Special needs teachers gather

Staff and teachers from Ysgol Y Deri, with the Mayor and teachers from other specialist schools.

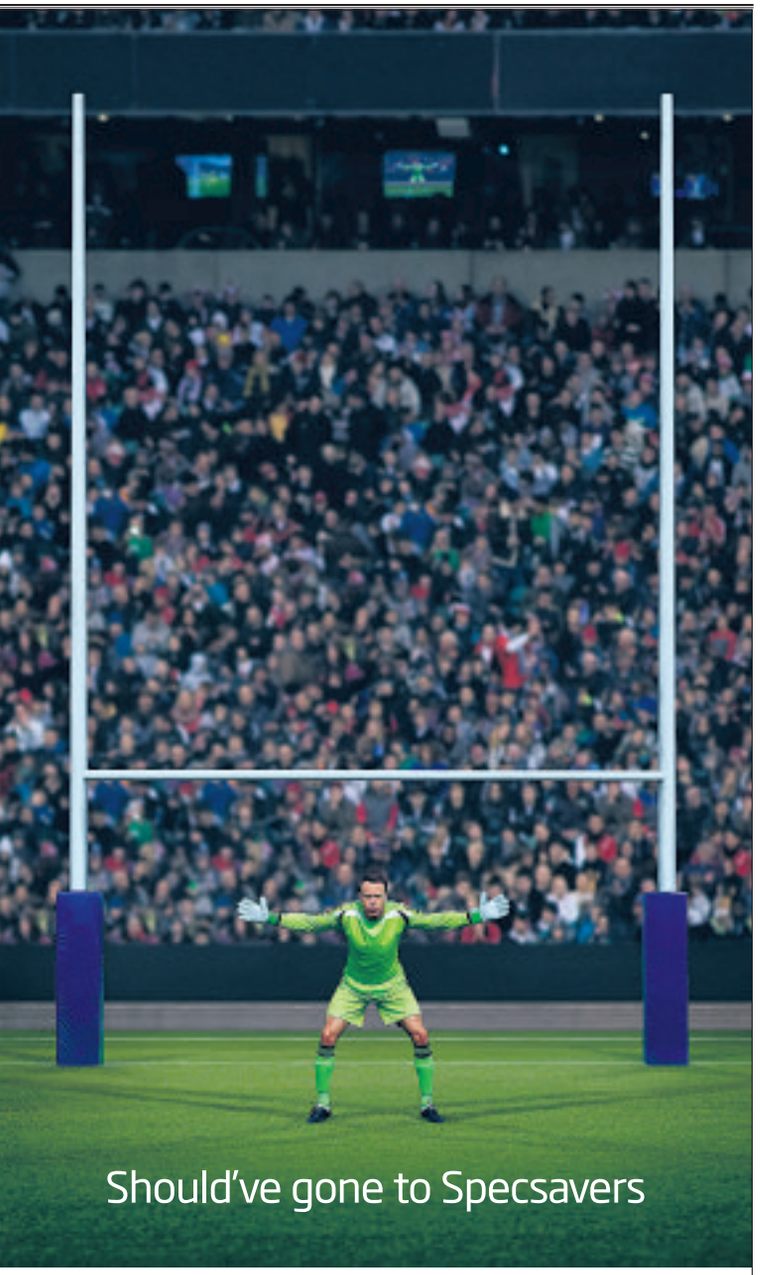
THE Vale of Glamorgan Mayor, Coun Fred Johnson, recently welcomed teachers from Germany, Belgium, Poland and Holland, together with staff from Ysgol y Deri in Penarth to Barry Town Hall.

The visit celebrated the end of a two-year project, which looked at opportunities for pupils with special needs once they leave school. The project has been a huge success, encouraging both pupil and teaching exchanges.

The visiting teachers commented widely on the strengths of Ysgol y Deri, the structured yet stimulating environment, and the way that the school curriculum has been developed to enable students to leave with the appropriate skills, knowledge and experience which will help them to lead full and independent lives.

The Mayor said he was delighted to present the European teachers with commemorative books: "It has been a pleasure to learn more about specialist teaching in Europe, and how the outstanding commitment of the staff at Ysgol y Deri has contributed to make it one of the flagship schools offering dedicated provision for autism spectrum disorder in the UK.

"I would like to wish everyone involved continued success," he added.



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Out and About with The GEM

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Help with energy bills

WANT help with your energy bills? Want free and impartial advice on cutting your energy bills?

Find out if you are eligible for free energy improvement grants through the Welsh Government NEST Programme.

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale is holding a surgery at the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, May 26 from 10am to 12 midday.

Horeb Chapel services

ON Thursday, May 28 at 6pm, Phil Brown from America, will be the guest preacher at Horeb Baptist chapel, Nantymoel.

The fellowship Sunday Services on May 30 are at 11am and 2pm. Scott Hefford, a promising young preacher, will be speaking for our morning service.

A fellowship Sunday meal will be served after the service. Pastor Chris Bluto will deliver the afternoon message. There is no Sunday School or evening service.

All are welcome. Call Pastor Chris Bluto for details on 01443 675424; chris_bluto@yahoo.co.uk.

Friends' lunch

FRIENDS and Neighbours had a very busy May with lunch at the Seashore Grill in Sully, for over 40 members.

The meeting at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall was well attended. Members now look forward to their trip in June to Tewksbury.

Further information on 01446 400044.

Rhoose bingo

THE management committee at Rhoose Community Hall in Stewart Road, is holding another fundraising bingo afternoon this Saturday (May 30) at 2.30pm. Light refreshments will be served at the half time break and as usual, there will be a large raffle.

Beach clean

FRIENDS of Barry Beaches will be holding a beach clean on Sunday, May 31 meeting at the Watchtower beach, the Knap (adjacent the Watchtower) at 3pm.

All litter picking equipment will be supplied but remember to wear sturdy shoes or boots and dress for the weather conditions on the day.

For further information, log onto www.fobb.btck.co.uk.

Mediumship

BARRY National Spiritualist Church and Centre presents an evening of mediumship with Karen North on Monday, June 1, at 7pm; Buttrills Road, Barry CF62 8EF.

Pay at the door £5.

Tax help for older people

A TOP income tax surgery to offer free professional advice to older people on a restricted income, will be held at Roz Couzens' Chiropody Surgery, Unit 4, Commercial House, Llantwit Major (CF61 1RB) on Monday, June 1 from 10am until midday.

No appointment is necessary.

Debut novel

LOCAL musician and author Colum Sanson-Regan of folk duo New Druids has a debut novel *The Fly Guy*, a "dark psychological thriller" published by an American publisher, WordFire Press.

He will be signing in Pontyclun Bookstore between 11am and 2pm on Saturday, June 6.

The book is also available to order on amazon.co.uk.

Magna Carta lecture

COWBRIDGE History Society's final lecture of this season will be on Friday, June 5 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, Cowbridge.

The title is 'Magna Carta 800 – The Great Charter of British Liberties: King John and the Barons', by Don Gerrard. All welcome.

Village fete

LLANDOUGH village fete will be held on Saturday, June 13 at 2pm in King George V Memorial Playing Fields (situated off Leckwith Road, Llandough).

There is a wide range of family entertainment: dancing from the Desert Divas, children's races, pet competition and children's entertainment show with music by the Vale Brass Band.

Garden open

THE following garden is opening for the charity National Gardens Scheme on the weekend of June 6 and 7: Bryn-y-Ddafad, Welsh St Donat's, CF71 7ST.

This has areas of unusual plantings giving interest through the seasons.

Terraced rear garden, mature trees, flowering shrubs, lilypond, pergola of clematis and wisteria, rose garden leading to a bridge crossing the natural stream and bog garden; areas of grasses, candelabra primulas, rhododendrons and azaleas.

Attractive raised courtyard garden planted in pastel shades.

Opening information: Sunday June 1 (1pm – 5pm). Admission £4, children admitted free. Teas and homemade cakes.

Visitors also welcome by arrangement, April to September, groups 10+. Admission as above. Glyn and June Jenkins 01446 774451.

Carers' workshop

CARERS are being encouraged to visit a free mindfulness workshop in Penarth during Carers' Week.

The Marie Curie Caring for Carers Project team will host the 'Time For Me' workshop at the Kymin in Penarth on Monday, June 8 between 12.30pm – 4pm.

The sessions are aimed at carers who are caring for somebody living with a terminal illness, encouraging them to integrate mindfulness into their busy daily lives.

For more information call 02920 426023, or email: sarah.johnson@mariecurie.org.uk or Susan.court@mariecurie.org.uk.

Ty Hafan lottery winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D880:

- **£2,000:** 608301
- **The rollover, which now stands at £11,500 was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 543658, 385015, 619475, 928272, 201848, 767361, 305016, 355272, 635161, 559184, 789547, 831272, 588020, 705764, 485576, 545502, 423881, 707913, 602885, 792484.
- **£5:** 463403, 897228, 660056, 144225, 240355, 730460, 611650, 740471, 211551, 379316, 840745, 842444, 875074, 856594, 351813, 885129, 882895, 389241, 186851, 848075, 330444, 162005, 657296, 468906, 285770, 707685, 157440, 168105, 739352, 186136, 581926, 529976, 605233, 871831, 203891, 889096, 765940, 629840, 956198, 585414, 898414, 723597, 159807, 279234, 314048, 862051, 436695, 606505, 453601, 713472, 690361, 437264, 143654, 667521, 151233, 888998, 875874, 430573, 302192, 427.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

NEW PLAY IS SET FOR COWBRIDGE

IT is appropriate that a play entitled *Bara Bread* should come to Cowbridge the week after the food festival.

The play, performed by Theatre Gwalia and written by local playwright Carmen Medway-Stevens, is at the Market Theatre on May 29, 7.30pm.

The play opened with a four-night run at the Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff, and has been on tour around south Wales.

Carmen told The GEM that it was written with community spirit in mind: "We have an amazing cast, Louise Collins, Saran Morgan, Michelle McTernan, Olwen Rees and Sarah Hopkin and a special guest appearance from Sharon Morgan.

"If you liked *Calendar Girls*, you'll enjoy this".

For more information contact theatrgwalia@gmail.com or purchase tickets on the door). More details at www.chapter.org

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'The Council is making the difference!'

LAST month, I intended to write this column but because of the impending general election, I was not able to do so. However, I thought it was worth resurrecting it this month, as there are still some pertinent issues raised within it.

This may seem a little futile, as there was a result that obviously was not the one I would have wanted, but democracy prevailed and I have no issue with that.

To the victors go the spoils, but I am sure that outcome will not be good for the vast majority of the citizens in the Vale of Glamorgan, or the country as a whole.

I was going to urge everyone to look at all the manifesto commitments, compare them and consider the impact they would have, not only on you but the wider community. I would also have asked you to consider whether the claims being made by candidates were accurate and that they have actually achieved what they say they have.

Having seen some of the achievements claimed by one candidate in particular, I was angered, because those achievements have actually been made by this Vale Labour-led council and not that individual, who is still making claims that I do not believe he can achieve.

Regrettably and belatedly, I want to put the record straight and outline the promises we, as a Labour-led Vale council, have already fulfilled by meeting the vast majority of our manifesto promises – even though we have two more years left in our term of office.

I sincerely believe that Labour is making a difference across the Vale of Glamorgan, despite the claims to the contrary from our political opponents.

We have listened to you and kept our promises, albeit we have inherited the worst financial scenario I have experienced in my years as a councillor and politician.

I admit it has been challenging and it has meant taking difficult decisions in many areas – and those decisions are getting harder.

One example is setting the 3.9 per cent rise in council tax for 2015/16, but actually the increase for the Vale is one of the lowest of the 22 Welsh councils and it is still below the average council tax in Wales, let alone England.

This year, we had a cut in our funding from the Government of £5.5million, as a result of the cut in public spending. If that cut was collected through council tax, it would equate to a 14 per cent increase.

Such a rise would not be acceptable, or reasonable and, therefore, in order to balance the books, we will use £2.5 million of general reserves this year, make internal savings of £6.8 million, while being mindful there will be further savings of £24.7 million required over the next three years.

Despite the difficulties, we are keeping to the vast majority of our election pledges in working to achieve them all within the cycle of this council.

We have done this by cutting the cabinet from 10 members to six, making huge savings year on year, along with holding community cabinet meetings in the evening; ensured members of the public can give evidence to the planning and scrutiny committee; prioritised where regeneration money is spent; kept school crossing patrols where they are needed; reinstated the mobile library with the help of Barry Town Council; placed traffic lights and road safety measures on the Docks Link Road; reintroduced traffic wardens and invested in resurfacing and pot hole filling of our roads.

We have invested in our young people and established a youth mayor and youth cabinet; brought council spending under control, despite austerity; ensured the Penarth Pier project was delivered; helped redevelop the Pump House for leisure and business use; are working with Barry Town Council to enhance Cemetery Approach; looking for partners in bringing St Paul's Church in Penarth back into use; ensured the Penarth Learning Community was built and planned a new learning community in Llantwit Major; as well as looking at co-education as a way forward in Barry.

We have also brought award-winning events to the area, promoted our amazing tourism attractions and the outstanding natural beauty that the Vale has to offer.

I believe that the Labour-led Vale Council is already making a difference, working to reverse the neglect and under-investment of previous Conservative administrations and the savage cuts from the previous Conservative-led coalition in Westminster, with more to come.

We support local people, including our young people. The Vale is one of the four top education authorities in Wales for 11-14 year olds.

VIEW FROM THE VALE

by Coun **NEIL MOORE** Leader of the Vale of Glamorgan Council

We have worked with partners to give greater support and independence for older residents in the new 'Extra Care' accommodation.

We have more than halved the waiting time for disabled facility grants and 97 per cent of people felt more independent and safe in their homes as a result.

We have supported services in rural communities such as shops, businesses, meeting spaces and community food growing projects. Older people are now able to live independently in their own homes through the use of our technology and reablement support.

We have saved £400k on the use of temporary accommodation for homeless people – reduced with no-one in bed and breakfast accommodation, and we have halved the time taken to re-let council homes by bringing empty houses back into use.

Coupled with that, we have supported people into work. We have doubled council apprenticeships with council contracts having to include requirements for apprenticeships and local labour. Over 600 people found jobs through council work programme or Communities First support and there have been 14 new and 76 existing rural business supported by the council's rural regeneration team.

We now also have over 20 young Vale entrepreneurs who have set up new businesses as a result of the Inspiring the Vale Bursaries awards.

As can be seen, we have continued investment in our communities. We have continued regeneration in Barry, and the Eastern Promenade on Barry Island. We helped secure the Fun Fair returning (*yes it was us that did it!*) and brought the historic Waterfront Pumphouse back into use.

We are working to deliver the second road to Barry Island years ahead of schedule to address the traffic problems. We have upgraded Penarth Esplanade, the Pier and Cliff Top car park and resurfaced roads.

It is, therefore, pleasing to note that visitors to the Vale increased by 16 per cent to 3.7 million, including 100,000 to council events.

We have delivered active travel schemes across the Vale and given support for town centres, including markets in Barry, Llantwit Major and Penarth town centres.

We are improving 1200 properties in the Castleland renewal area and 70 per cent of council homes have been improved to Welsh Housing Quality Standard so far – and we are ahead of target on that, too.

We are developing a pilot 20mph zone in Llandough and upgrading many parks across the Vale and investing in the Heritage Coast at Southerndown.

We have and are making a significant investment in education in Cowbridge, the Penarth Learning Community and buildings planned for Llantwit Major and the possibility of co-education in Barry, dependent on the consultation response.

We have also looked for greater efficiencies and saved on office and building costs and shared use with others. We have made savings by working with other councils, and reduced senior management and department structures, saving at least £400k each year and reduced cabinet positions from 10 to six and beat Welsh Government recycling targets having the third lowest cost in Wales, saving £150k on waste collection.

We have filled an extra 2,400 potholes last year and saved £226k each year through efficient lighting and heating, as well as reducing fuel costs for Vale residents through the Cyd Cymru energy scheme.

All in all, I believe that we have achieved remarkable success and, despite the recent election results, we will continue our work and keep our promises.

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COWBRIDGE MOVES UP FOOD FESTIVAL LEAGUE – AFTER A GREAT WEEKEND!

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

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REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

ONE thing was quite clear when The GEM toured the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink on the second day (Bank Holiday Monday) at 2pm – traders in the marquee were delighted.

Some admitted that the change in date from October to May had been a concern, but everyone that I spoke to was claiming that sales were the best ever – and the empty shelves on several stands backed this up.

First time exhibitors said that the response from customers had exceeded expectations, and those returning to the town said that the festival had taken a major step forward.

Ruth Harding of the Yellow House Kitchen, who had made the trip from Ystradmynach, was quite clear about where Cowbridge now stands in the festival circuit.

She said: "It is right up there with Abergavenny now, and I think the atmosphere is better."

She said that the high proportion of volunteers who helped with the setting up and running of the event made it a friendly and warm place to come.

She said: "The members of the local ATC, in particular, have been a huge help. they really have been fantastic."

Mervyn Watlin of the Wessex Pantry, from north Devon is a regular at the festival and he said: "It's amazing, it is 3.15pm and there are 12 stall holders who have sold all their stock."

I'm not sure if he was counting himself in that, but he was down to his last five steak pies!

He continued: "The move from October to March has made a huge difference, and I think the organisation here is superb." He too was full of praise for the ATC cadets.

Another regular visitor to the festival who had been concerned about the change of date was Clive Owen from the Pudding Shop, who had travelled from Upton-upon-Severn. He had thought that the October date helped with the sale of their rich puddings, with people stocking up for Christmas.

Those worries were misplaced. He pointed to a number of sold out lines and said: "Sales have been as good as ever, and this really is a great show to come to."

Another trader sitting cheerfully alongside empty shelves was Steve Bridges, of Elmtree Foods of Newport, at the show for the third time, and wishing he had brought more of their range of pies.

He said: "It really has been a cracking event. We were very happy to be at the Cowbridge food festival, but it has moved up to another level. We will be back next year – with more pies!"

So, the festival regulars were all over the moon with how things went, but how about the first timers?

It was good to see that some local businesses were raising their profile by taking a stall at the festival. One such was Mel Constantinou of Baked by Mel, who travelled all the way from Llantwit Major.

Mel sells Bara Brith online, and attracted attention a while back when Fortnum and Mason decided to sell it in their famous London store.

Last year, she came along to the festival fringe event but this year she took a deep breath, baked non-stop for the week before, and took a stall in the main festival marquee.

The GEM can report that this reporter bought her last piece of bara brith (although she did have some rocky road chocolate brownies left!'

She said: "It has been fantastic. I really didn't expect to sell so much, so I am absolutely delighted."

Another Llantwit Major business making its debut was the Tomos and Lilford Brewery. Rob Lilford told The GEM: "We came along to the fringe last year, and this time we thought we would try the main marquee."

He said that sales on both days had been excellent. They had sold their beer in bottles, and also by the pint, and ran out of draft beer on the Sunday.

On the Monday, the draft was still going strong when The GEM talked to them but, by a weird coincidence, it was this reporter who bought their last box of bottled beer!

Away from the festival marquee, the town was buzzing just about everywhere. A busy cradft tent was in Church Street, while at Strawberry Fields, a co-op of crafters from Ormore-by-Sea, Crafts by the Sea, had put up a tent and were doing brisk business.

Fran Davies told The GEM: "It has been well worth coming. We have seen so many new people and the feedback has been great."

Local shops had opened – more on the Monday then the Sunday – and were reporting increased footfall.

Karen Lovell, the manager of the Dogs trust shop, said: "It's lovely to see so many people around, and it was good to see so many popping in."

The Emmaus shop also felt that the decision to open had been well worth it. Joint manager Teresa said: "This is the first food festival since we opened, and we have been really busy all day."

Elsewhere, local businesses were serving snacks on the street, while in the Bear Hotel, there were two marquees, one in the hotel courtyard offering live music, while just behind, the champagne marquee – also with entertainment – was doing great business all day.

Traders are happy as gourmet delights sell out during two-day festival feeding frenzy

Photographs by
MIKE WILCOCK

THERE were smiling faces everywhere on Sunday and Monday (May 24/25) at the Cowbridge Festival of Food and Drink.

There were smiles from visitors, smiles from the organisers, and big smiles from the traders!

After all, the market traders needed to sell enough produce to justify coming back next year – and they certainly did!

Festival manager Polly Wilson told The GEM: "One trader, supplying game and other meat products, sold out on the first day.

"He said it had never happened before at any food festival, and it was unfortunate that he lived too far away to get fresh supplies.

"He'll be back next year, though!"

'Put another prawn on the barbie, mate!'

ABOVE: Indian delicacies were on offer at the Shampan.

`The packed market hall.

First Responders had been raising cash to place defibrillators in the town.

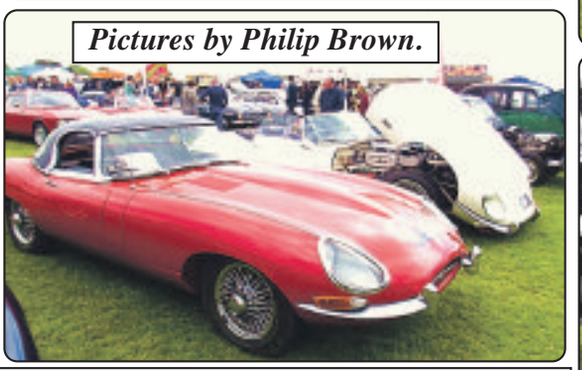
CLASSIC CARS (*AND SCOOTERS*) ARE ON SHOW AT SULLY SPORTS CLUB

THESE pictures were taken at the Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show, organised by Dinas Powys Rotary Club and held at the Sully Sports and Social Club on Bank Holiday Monday.

The weather stayed dry and a large number of people came to see all types of cars, motorbikes and scooters, along with vintage cars and high performance and sports cars.

It was the ideal venue, with views overlooking the Bristol Channel.

Pictures by Philip Brown.



West End triumph over Ebbw Vale CC

BARRY West End travelled to Ebbw Vale on Sunday, with gloomy conditions overhead; West End skipper Henry Dawson won the toss and elected to bowl first.

The West End opened up the bowling with Tom Miller and Dafydd Frost; Ebbw Vale's opening batsman were N Pepper jnr and T Roberts.

Both Miller and Frost bowled well, with the former unlucky not to pick up a wicket early on.

It was Frost who found the first breakthrough, a ball hitting the top of off to dismiss Pepper jnr for seven.

M Brooks strode in at number three for Ebbw Vale, immediately attacking both bowlers. With a lack of communication apparent in the early stages of Ebbw Vale's innings, Brooks was run out by Rhys Hatton for five.

Ebbw Vale were 34-2 after 10 overs. M Morgan was number four for Ebbw Vale. Rhys Hatton replaced Dafydd Frost at the Rugby ground end.

Ebbw Vale picked up the run rate slightly after some poor bowling from Hatton. Neil Holmes replaced Tom Miller at the Pavillion end.

Morgan was dismissed by Holmes, after Steve Oram took a great catch over his shoulder at mid-wicket. Morgan departed for seven and J Powell arrived as number five for Ebbw Vale.

Richard Eastman replaced Hatton at the Rugby ground end and picked up the next wicket when he bowled Powell for two.

S Jones was Roberts' next partner, Roberts reaching his 50 shortly after. However, Eastman picked up a second wicket when he dismissed Roberts for 50, lbw. Ebbw Vale reached 76-5 after 24 overs.

Nye Lane replaced Holmes at the Pavillion End, while Glan Williams replaced Eastman at the Rugby ground end.

Lane picked up the first first wicket when S Jones was caught at mid-wicket by Steve Oram; Jones departed for 10.

Both Lane and Williams bowled well to restrict the scoring of the batsman; C Jones and N Pepper snr were now at the crease for Ebbw Vale.

Lane had Jones caught behind by Henry Dawson for 11. Tommy Miller caught Pepper at mid on to give Lane his third wicket of the match.

R Hares batted at number 10 for Ebbw Vale and was bowled second ball by Lane.

Lane achieved a five wicket haul when Neil Holmes held on to a catch at extra cover to dismiss L King for 5.

J White remained not out on 4 and Ebbw Vale finished 127 all out after 39.1 overs.

After a superb tea and a great improvement in conditions, the West End opened up their innings with Henry Dawson and Rhys Howell.

After being dropped on nought, Dawson freed his arms and accumulated runs quickly.

Neither batsman was troubled by the Ebbw Vale bowlers of Powell and Pepper snr, and The West End reached 50-0 after 11 overs.

Dawson retired not out soon after, finishing on 51. Steve Oram joined the watchful Howell. R Hares and J White were the next pair to bowl for Ebbw Vale, and White bowled particularly well, keeping both Howell and Oram in check.

At the drinks interval, Howell retired not out on 18. M Williams joined Oram at the crease.

The pace of scoring decreased to a steady rate with both batsmen picking off singles.

T Roberts found the only breakthrough for Ebbw Vale when M Williams was bowled for 19 and Pat Cowley joined Oram as number five.

The West End reached the target of 128 for the loss of one wicket. Oram finishing 32 not out and Cowley 0 not out.

RH

Remembering heroine of two world wars

PRIOR to this year's World War One (Gallipoli) and last week's World War Two (Dunkirk) commemorations, the artifacts from Barry's own paddle steamer were returned to her home town in time for both remembrances and tributes.

The paddle steamer *Barry* was a heroine in both wars and indeed served her country well when needed. She saved many lives in both conflicts and is dearly remembered for her pleasure cruising in peacetime, as well as her wartime duties for a nation.

Items including the ship's helm and wheel, are displayed at the entrance to the Vale mayor's parlour at the town hall, Kings Square. Barry. A little ship at Dunkirk and a heroine of Gallipoli.

This year we remembered both Gallipoli and Dunkirk and should also remember our own paddle steamer *Barry*.

Another local Dunkirk-related vessel was the *Silver Queen*, a former Whitmore Bay/Barry Island day tripper. Small and flat-bottomed, she ferried retreating troops to the likes of our *Barry*.

Centurions suffer defeats against their local rivals

SULLY Centurions travelled the short distance to Barry Island to play local rivals Barry Athletic and came away empty handed, in spite of Shae Ellis' 86 not out.

Put into bat by the hosts, Centurions lost two wickets for 19 before Ellis and Santosh Singh (23) shared a half-century third wicket partnership.

Then wickets began to fall with regularity – 74 for 3 became 111 for 6 as the Barry bowlers strengthened their grip on the game.

Shae Ellis shared a partnership of 26 with Nick Jones (11) and Christian Bruce (5) but the innings came to a halt with the score on 174 in the 44th over. The wickets were evenly spread out among the home bowlers.

The home response was remarkable. Steve Provis (94) and Nathan Baker (79) didn't hang about as they dispatched the Sully attack to all parts of the ground.

Both remained unbeaten and the target was reached with plenty of overs to spare. Bragging rights go to Barry, with Shae Ellis' batting being the only positive note for Centurions.

Barry Athletic 175/0, Sully Centurions 174 all out

In the reverse fixture at Sully, the seconds were on the end of a real drubbing, after Barry had accumulated a massive score in the sunshine.

Batting first, the visitors' opening pair of Hugh Smith and Paul Murphy racked up a century partnership before Smith (61) was out lbw to Mick Fisher.

However, this only brought skipper Ashley Baker to the crease and he joined in the fun by hitting a very good 79 when he was bowled by Ricky Griffet with the score on 295.

Meanwhile Murphy continued to find the boundary as he got closer to his 100. He was joined by Lee Morgan, who also reached a half century as the runs kept piling up.

Murphy was eventually out for 118 when he skied a delivery from Josh Bryan and was caught by Peter Thomas. Craig Brock became the fourth man out when he was caught behind by Lewis Pyke for 14, to give Griffett his second wicket.

But that was the last breakthrough for Centurions, as Morgan (64 not out) and Dawson (14 not out) put on another 60 runs for the fifth wicket - the innings closed on a colossal 364-4.

Centurions reply got off to a spirited start with Peter Thomas and Ricky Griffett riding their luck to take the score to 38, when Griffett was bowled by Mitchell Taylor-Moore for 19.

Thomas was eventually out for 34, caught off the bowling of Billy Usswald, with the score on 76; but the only other batsman to reach double figures was Lewis Pyke (15).

The story of the innings, however was the bowling of Usswald, who posted the incredible figures of 6 for 6 off 8 overs, including four maidens, as Centurions were all out for 106 in the 29th over.

Sully Centurions II 106 all out, Barry Athletic II 364-4

WEEKEND TEAMS

Saturday: Ist XI (home v Newport Fugitives) meet at ground at 11.45am - L Bruce, Q Ferdouz, S Singh, B Spear, S Shokeen, A Kulkarni, S Ellis, N Jones, T Davies, C Bruce, N Cuddihy, O Sullivan.

2nd XI (away v Newport Fugitives II) meet at Sully Inn Car Park at 11.15am - (from) DW Sylvester, P Thomas, I Thomas, L Pyke, B Callow, G Hicks, A Emir, E Fiddler, M Burnett, L Burnett, J Wooden, J Bryan, S Morse, P Harrison, H Miller, R Bennett, E Davies.

Sunday: Friendly (TBC) - S Ellis, O Sullivan, E Davies, L Bruce, T Davies, M Fisher, B Callow, S Singh, Q Ferdouz, DW Sylvester, S Shokeen, M Hayes, A Kulkarni.

MF

LLANTWIT MAJOR BOWLS CLUB NEWS

ON Thursday the A team had a break from the Triples League and welcomed a team from the Cardiff Masonic for a friendly.

It was a four rink match comprising of the normal four men per side per rink. The Cardiff Masonic play around nine fixtures a season, and are made up of players from various clubs.

Once again, the game was played in good spirit, with some audible excitement from Charles Hiscocks' rink on the later ends. Although the team lost overall by a couple of shots there were some commendable performances on each rink.

On Saturday, we welcomed the eventual South Vale league winners Romilly A to our bowls green. Praise must be given to Arthur Hayes and his team who always provide us with a green that must be the envy of many clubs, not only providing us with a quality surface to play on but ensuring that all our playing equipment and scoreboards were put out ready for the game.

Romilly are an experienced team, and despite being used to a slow green at Romilly managed to get to grips with our green quite quickly.

All rinks tried hard to get good scores on the boards, but Romilly were a stronger unit overall. Congratulations to Graham Merchant and his rink for Llantwit's only rink win.

Overall, Romilly took away 12 points and Llantwit Major A two. I must personally commend Andy Vincent on my rink for his consistently good bowling as lead.

NICK PARRY

Llantwit Major lady bowlers visited Cowbridge Bowling Club on Tuesday to play a round of the Cowbridge Shield.

We were welcomed by a heavy shower, but the ladies' welcome was a bit warmer. Due to the unsettled weather, it was decided to play 15 ends.

We did not escape a couple of showers during the game but the friendly banter kept us warm. We were lucky to win on one rink but lost on the other two.

The winning rink were E Crouch, M Andrews, E Gray, V Ball (11-15); the other rinks were E Hardy, P Brown, J Molloy, D Hurley (12-8); M Horgan, J Fox, C Willmot Pike - all the ladies adjusted well on the new carpet green.

On Thursday we visited Millwood in sunshine, no raincoats needed to play our first league game as last Thursday's game had to be cancelled because of rain.

The green proved quite a challenge with two rinks dropping a five in the early stages, but Marian recovered to lose by two points (M Horgan, P Pike, J Molloy, M Lewis 12-14).

Unfortunately, Carol did not recover so well losing by eight points (E Crouch, M Andrews, E Nichol, C Willmot 10-18).

The winning rink scored a five on the 17th end, ensuring us one winning rink of E Hardy, P Brown, V Ball, Etta Gray (17-15) - well done ladies and thank you Millwood for a lovely tea.

CAROL WILLMOT

Cup loss for Millwood

TRAVELLING to Penarth to play Belle Vue, Millwood suffered the first defeat in this year's Munro Cup, by a margin of 26 shots.

Millwood were chasing a deficit score even after the very first end at 1-4 down. Having played the fifth end Millwood were behind even further, 11-19.

That eight shot gap never closed, for at the ninth end the score was 27-35 in Belle Vue's favour. Having played the 14th end Millwood lagged even further behind with the score standing at 36-52, and after the 18th, and final, end was played, the Penarth side had opened up a 28 shot winning margin.

The points score worked out to 12-2 for Belle Vue.

On Saturday Millwood welcomed Llantwit Major to their green for a friendly before the league starts in earnest for all teams.

Having played the first five ends, Millwood found themselves just a couple of shots in the lead at 18-16, but after the 10th end the lead had switched to Llantwit who were then leading by six shots at 32-38.

The deficit was reduced to one shot by Millwood after the 15th end to trail by 57-58, but with the final end played Llantwit Major secured the victory with the eight shot win margin over Millwood.

Thanks go to Llantwit Major for the enjoyable spirit in which the game was played, for now is the time that both teams need to prepare for the 14 match season ahead of them.

The club side are home to Murch this Saturday (League 4), while the 'A' side are away to Murch (League 7) - good luck to both Millwood sides.

JH

BARRY & DISTRICT LEAGUES & RESULTS

CRIB DIVISION 1:

League table: Liberals 227, Wyndham Cons 221, Cadoxton Cons 218, Moors Boys 210, West End Wanderers 209, Rhoose Social 207, West End 206, Railway 182.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Allsorts 5, Slammers 2; Rhoose Social A 6, Liberals A 1; Cambrian Flyers 3.5, Barries Boys 3.5; Runway Club 2, Sea View B 5; Liberals C 6, King William XII 1; Rhoosters 1, Rhoose Social C 6; Rhoose Social B 5, West End D 2; West End C 5.5, Rugby Club 1.5.

League table: West End C 151, Sea View B Allsorts 138, West End D 116, Slammers 115, Rugby Club 110, King William XII 108.5, Rhoose Social B 106, Barries Boys 101.5, Rhoose Social A 100, Rhoose Social C 95.5, Rhoosters 95.5, Liberals A 78.5, Liberals C 77.5, Cambrian Flyers 76.5, Runway Club 66.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 3, Savoy B 2; Harbour B 5, Rhoose Social C 0; Cadoxton Cons B 2, West End C 3; HarbourA 0, SavoyA 5; Cadoxton Cons Z 2, Penarth Cons B 3; Rhoose Social B 3, Wyndham Cons C 2.

League table: Harbour B 123, Savoy A 123, Cadoxton Cons B 95, West End C 93, Cadoxton Cons Z 82, Wyndham Cons A 71, Rhoose Social B 68, Rhoose Social C 66, Harbour A 65, Penarth Cons B 64, Savoy B 57, Wyndham Cons C 53.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

RailwayA 3, Liberators 2; Market Street C 1, Market Street B 4; Penarth Cons A 2, Penarth Cons D 3; West End B 4, Sully Sports A 1; Railway B 3, Services Social B 2.

League table: Railway A 113, Market Street C 93, Penarth Cons D 88, Market Street B 85, Railway B 84, Liberators 82, Services Social B 81, Cadoxton Cons A 73, Penarth Cons A 70, Sully Sports A 67, West End B 58, *Railway C 56 (* = Points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

Provision of Architectural and other Technical Services

The Town Council is seeking an experienced Architect or Architectural Company to provide professional and technical services in relation to contracts being and to be undertaken in respect of all Council lands and buildings. It would be helpful if you/your company has access to all technical disciplines, including architectural services, building surveying, mechanical engineering, electrical engineering and knowledge & understanding of invest to save projects, but whilst this would be an advantage, it is not essential. The Council would also require regular reports on the progress of contracts and attendance at meetings from time to time as well as general technical advice to senior Council officers.

Please apply with your/your company's profile, citing examples of contracts undertaken within the last five years and an indication of clients you have worked for, together with public liability insurance certificates, three references and a fee proposal for each of the disciplines referred to above, but especially for the provision of architectural and building surveying services.

The closing date for the receipt of fee proposals is noon on 22 June 2015. It is intended to award the successful tenderer a three year contract with effect from September 2015.

For more information please contact:-

Mr C Lewis
Town Clerk
Barry Town Clerk
Council Offices
7 Gladstone Road
Barry CF62 8NA
Tel: 01446 704920

BARRY TOWN COUNCIL
CYNGOR TREF Y BARRI

Darparu Gwasanaethau Pensaernïol a Gwasanaethau Technegol Eraill

Mae'r Cyngor Tref yn chwilio am Bensaer neu Gwmni Pensaernïol profiadol i ddarparu gwasanaethau proffesiynol a thechnegol ar gyfer contractau sydd ac a fydd yn cael eu cyflawni ar gyfer holl diroedd ac adeiladau'r Cyngor. Byddai'n ddefnyddiol os ydych chi/eich cwmni yn gallu cynnig yr holl ddisgyblaethau technegol, gan gynnwys gwasanaethau pensaernïol, syrfeio adeiladau, peirianneg fecanyddol, peirianneg drydanol a gwybodaeth & dealltwriaeth o brosiectau buddsoddi i arbed, ond er y byddai hyn yn fantais, nid yw'n hanfodol. Byddai'r Cyngor hefyd yn disgwyl adroddiadau rheolaidd ar y diweddaraf ar gontractau a phresenoldeb mewn cyfarfodydd o bryd i'w gilydd ynghyd â chyngor technegol cyffredinol i uwch swyddogion y Cyngor.

Dylai eich cais gynnwys proffil eich cyngor, gan nodi enghreifftiau o gontractau a gyflawnwyd yn y pum mlynedd diwethaf ac awgrym o gleientiaid y buoch yn gweithio â nhw, ynghyd â thystysgrifau yswiriant atebolrwydd cyhoeddus, tri geirda a chynnig ffi ar gyfer pob un o'r disgyblaethau y cyfeiriwyd atynt uchod, ond yn enwedig felly ar gyfer darparu gwasanaethau pensaernïol a syrfeio adeiladau.

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer derbyn cynigion ffi yw canol dydd ar 22 Mehefin 2015. Ein bwriad yw rhoi contract tair blynedd i'r tendrwr llwyddiannus yn cychwyn ym mis Medi 2015.

Er mwyn cael mwy o wybodaeth cysylltwch â:

Mr C Lewis
Clerc y Dref
Cyngor Tref Y Barri
Swyddfeydd y Cyngor
7 Heol Gladstone
Y Barri CF62 8NA
Ffôn: 01446 704920

The Killers slay the opposition in Boccia league!

CARDIFF and Vale College team, The Killers, have eaten up all the competition to claim the Vale Adult Boccia League for 2015.

Thirteen Boccia teams made up from the Boccia Rollers, Cardiff and Vale College, Hengoleg Resource Centre and Woodlands Day Centre competed against each other over 13 weeks, with the Killers coming out on top.

Due to the number of teams taking part this year, the teams were split into two leagues with the top four in each league moving on the quarter finals.

The final was contested between The Killers and the experienced Boccia Rollers One, and thanks to some extraordinary shots The Killers came out on top in a very competitive final.

Boccia, which is similar to French Boules or Petanque, is a Paralympic and Special Olympic Sport which can be played by all.

This was the second year in a row that a team from Cardiff and Vale College have won the title, and the win was made even more impressive with the competition being The Killers' first time playing together.

Boccia Rollers Two played Woodlands 3 Amigo's in the third place play off with the Boccia Rollers Two coming out on top.

Councillor Gwyn John, the Vale's Cabinet member for Leisure and Tourism, attended the matches where he presented trophies and plaques to the winning teams during the ceremony.

Simon Jones, Disability Sport Wales Development Officer for the Vale Council, said: "The league is becoming more and more popular each year. We had 47 adults taking part which is an increase on last year. The standard of play was excellent as always, which created a very competitive league. I would also like to thank Hengoleg Resource Centre for staging the league year on year. It's very much appreciated."

If you are interested in playing Boccia or any other Disability Sport please contact Simon Jones on 01446 704728 or sljones@valeof glamorgan.gov.uk.

Brian Lee's Point-To-Point Blast from the Past – 1988

OVER the past 49 years, my point-to-point stories and racing reports have appeared in many newspapers and magazines and these include the sadly long gone The Sporting Life, Racing Post, Western Mail, Horse & Hound, Western Telegraph, Brecon & Radnor Express, Hereford Times, South Wales Echo, Daily Telegraph, Sunday Telegraph, Sunday Express, South Wales Argus, Tenby Observer, Wales On Sunday and, of course, the Glamorgan GEM series of local papers.

There are others but they are lost in the mist of time. I regret now that I dumped all my Sporting Life press clippings and gave away all my form books, hunter chasers and point-to-pointer annuals when I moved house.

Before we take a look at the 1988 season, here is a report of mine which appeared in the Racing Post on Novenber 2, 1987, under the heading 'Girl Ends 25-Year Wait': "Chepstow farmer Trevor Price, who has been training for 25 years, landed his first winner under rules when 25-1 chance *CBM Girl* landed the seller at Worcester on Saturday. Price, who came out of hospital just the day before, was too ill to go to the races. But he didn't miss out as friends carried him to a local betting shop where he listened to the race commentary.

"'I told everyone I fancied her, and a terrific cheer went up as she passed the winning post' said Price. Standing in for the trainer at Worcester was his son Brian, 34, a former leading point-to-point rider. *CBM Girl* , who cost Price £850, runs at Chepstow on Saturday."

Writing under the nom de plume Pointsman for a local evening paper, I wrote: "Castleton farrier Tim Rooney scored his ninth win under rules when riding an exciting finish on Bill Evans's *Final Presence* at Hereford. Despite making a mistake at the last fence, Rooney got his mount going again to collar the Fred Winter-trained *Dumper* halfway up the run-in and going on to score by a length."

That man Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn, who tells me he has been "getting some stick" since these 'Blasts From The Past' pieces have been appearing, was soon in the news in 1988 and on March 3, 1988, I wrote: "Welsh champion point-to-point rider John Llewellyn, of Cowbridge, landed a brilliant double at the North Hereford Hunt Steeplechases. He scored an impressive win on Alan Hollingsworth's *Karannsu*, a chance ride, in a division of the adjacent and later won a division of the maiden on Grenville Richards' *Stand Firm*.

"*Stand Firm's* convincing win was little consolation for his owner who early in the day had his *Bold Roderick* put down after a crashing fall in the men's open.

"*Bold Roderick*, with Llewellyn aboard, had led his 19 rivals a merry dance until falling three fences from the finish."

I remember being at Hereford Racecourse the day *Bold Roderick* gave Grenville Richards his first win under Rules as a permit holder. If my memory serves me right, it was the last race of the day and *Bold Roderick* was a 50-1 outsider.

Let me tell you one funny story concerning the late Grenville Richards.

After his *Fixed Price* had won a division of the men's open race at the Brecon Hunt that year – a tremendous feat and I don't know of any other other to have equalled winning the same event at a point-to-point five years on the trot – I said to *Fixed Price's* rider John Llewellyn, who was on his way back to the unsaddling enclosure: "Well done, John – that's four in a row, isn't it?"

He replied: "Five, you silly ....!"

I didn't think anything of it; after all, I have been called a lot worse than that over the years! Anyway, that evening I received a telephone call from John, who told me that Mr Richards, who had overheard his remark, had told him that unless he phoned Mr Lee to apologise, he would never ride another horse of his ever again!

And, under the heading 'Champ Romps It On *Stand Firm*', I reported: 'Grenville Richards' eight-year-old bay gelding, *Stand Firm,* gave Welsh champion point-to-point rider John Llewellyn his eighth winner of the season at the rain-soaked Golden Valley Hunt Steeplechases. *Stand Firm,* who is unbeaten in three races this season, won easing up from *April Gem*, with *Grundy Glow* a further six lengths away in third place.'

One person impressed with *Stand Firm's* performance was Richard Lee, who told me he thought *Stand Firm* was the best point-to-pointer he had seen that season. Since then, Richard has gone on to train two Coral Welsh Grand National winners.

'Jones Family at Double' was the heading above another report in which I wrote: 'Tim Jones, aged 22 and his 18-year-old sister Pip, both landed doubles at two different point-to-points on Saturday.

'Tim was in action at the Curre at Howick where he won on *Lislary Lad* and *Bradfield Prince* while Pip notched up a double on *Norton's Coin* and *Japling* at the Vale of Clettwr at Pencader.'

'It was at the Brecon meeting that I reported that Newport docker Richard Williams, who has been riding in point-to-points for 15 years, came in for some of the biggest cheers of the day. Williams won the second division of the maiden on Cyril Morgan's seven-year-old chestnut mare *Golden Bond*. Williams did well to win on the mare, as she had fallen in her three previous races.'

While my report on the Glamorgan read:'Dennis Reed's 13-year-old *Norman Case* made every yard of the running to win the men's open at the Glamorgan Hunt Point-To-Point at St Hilary. *Norman Case*, who has been plagued by leg injuries throughout his racing career, was ridden by Tenby farmer Philip Mathias, who was notching up his first win over the St Hilary course.

'Despite jumping carelessly throughout the race, Norman Case had eight lengths to spare over *Lost Albert* at the finish. Company secretary Beth Llewellyn also adopted pillar to post tactics when landing the ladies' open race on her father's promising six-year-old *David Charles*.'

I went on: 'In the first division of the maiden, 27-year-old Rhiannon Lougher from Cowbridge conjured up a late dash on *Humberstone Bay* to beat Welsh champion rider John Llewellyn on *Sungora*. John Llewellyn was in the wars at the Pentyrch that year as he had three rides and ended up on the deck in all three of them.

'In fact, he was stopped from riding in the last race by the medical officer as it was thought he was suffering with three broken ribs.

'At this meeting, the Vale's Paul Hamer had a treble with *Ratochhu* (members), *Knock On The Head* in the four mile Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National and *Marston Moor* in a division of the maiden race.

'Llewellyn was soon back in form a week later at the Llangeinor where he powered home *Captain Rondo* in the adjacent hunts race. Vivian Hughes won the maiden on *JimSleeves*; while at the Banwen Miners' fixture, Llewellyn set a new Welsh record when *Clanger* gave him his 20th winner of the season beating his previous best by one. He also won on *High To* and *One For Mammy*.

'Merthyr Mawr's *Jon Tudor* was successful on *Andreas Boy* in the restricted.'

'Welsh Horses Enjoy 1988' was the heading of my final piece on the season which read: 'With *St Helen's Boy* (Llangeinor Hunt) winning the Times Championship and *Tarville* (Gelligaer Farmers) the RMC Group Championship, the 1988 point-to-point season was a particularly good one for Welsh horses.

'Other Welsh winners of hunter chases under rules were *Sweet Rascal, Norton's Coin, Jack Billmier* and *Final Presence*. The leading horse was Liza Smithson's *Lislary Lad* from the Tredegar Farmers' Hunt. This former inmate of Mercy Rimell's yard won seven men's open races consecutively. *Lislary Lad's* rider, Tim Jones of Rudry, became only the sixth rider to win the Welsh riders' championship since the competition was first held in 1971.'

'The others are reigning champion John Llewellyn, Mike Williams, Tim Rooney, Ross Farr and Paul Hamer. Jones rode 18 winners compared to Llewellyn's 20, but Llewellyn rode several of his winners outside of Wales and these do not count for the Welsh championship.

'However, Llewellyn had some consolation in knowing that the 20 wins he chalked-up beat his own record of 19 wins in a season which he set when winning the national title in 1983. Jones also won the Bill Jones Memorial Trophy awarded to the leading rider in South Wales.

'Tim Jones' sister Pip retained her Welsh title with six wins. She also rode three winners under rules. One of the most outstanding performances of the season was put in by 14-year-old *Fixed Price* from the Talybont. This grand old warrior won a division of the men's open at the Brecon for the fifth year in succession, a feat which will probably never be bettered.'

Please email your point-to-point/horse racing stories and pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone 02920 736438.

The Barry Darts League round-up

WITH the final scheduled league games now played, the league table has a familiar look to it.

The Poachers top the table after two big wins. They first beat the Raiders 19-2, with Charlie James hitting a 180 and Nathan Dyball hitting a 110 out shot.

Then followed a 20-1 win against the Hell Raisers. This leaves them nine points clear of the Cwm Talwg on second place, who beat the Hell Raisers 21-0 and the Mariners 16-5.

The Billy Ghosts are in third position after beating the Park Weasels 13-8. The BFC Allsorts are fourth despite losing 11-10 to the Raiders; Ryan Gratton and Peter deSouza both hit 180s during the match.

The Dockers beat the Runways on Rhoose 17-4 with Barrie Chamberlain hitting a 96 out shot on his 65th birthday.

They followed that game up with a 14-7 win over the Wanderers, Dave Walters hitting a 110 out shot. The Plastics had a 15-6 away win over the Wanderers followed by an 18-3 win over the Loungers.

The Mariners had a good 16-5 away win over the Loungers with Colin Berryman hitting a 180 and Mike Copeland hitting a 140 out shot. In the final fixture the Tynewydd beat the Runways 14-7.

Teams with games outstanding are asked to arrange these fixtures as soon as possible.

The league singles will take place on June 5 at the Cadoxton Cons; players must be registered by 8pm.

RL

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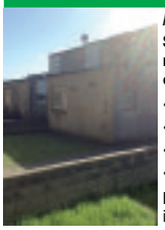

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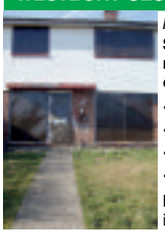

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PENCOED PHOENIX HOLD PRESENTATION EVENING

PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

PENCOED PHOENIX held their presentation evening recently, and the awards were as follows:

Captain's trophy: Amy Morgan; most improved: Jenna Dyckhoff; highest try score: Kayleigh Powell; most promising: Megan Griffiths; best newcomer: Laura Keeble; most committed: Tabitha Bill; player of the year: Megan Whittaker; club girl of the year: Caitlin Jones; coaches player: Jade Thomas; supporters' player: Kayleigh Powell and Caitlin Jones; players' player - Kayleigh Powell.

JH

Kart club's annual championship sees packed field

LLANDOW Kart Club began a busy month of May by using round four of its annual championship as the curtain raiser for the return of the national Super One series to south Wales.

A packed field assembled for the mid-May clubbie, with many drivers using the occasion to 'get their eye in' ahead of the S1 visit, and it made for some spectacular racing as the weather gods looked favourably on the Vale.

Having been boosted by the visit of the national Bambino championship runners in April, the youngest field on the card was back to more modest numbers this time around, but that did not stop Nathan Browning, Caleb McDuff, Cameron Crockett and the visiting Joseph Baird from showing their abilities against the clock. The quartet finished in that order, with each picking up a trophy to mark their achievements.

A 30-strong Honda cadet field earned itself the right to run solo on track, and made a colourful site as they did battle over three heats and a final. The wonderfully named Dragan Pinsent opened the day with a win in race one, before TVKC clubmate - and reigning 'O' Plate champion - Wesley Mason took out the remaining heats, but it was a third visitor from the same club who came through to take overall honours, with Alex Lloyd snatching victory in the final by 0.3secs over Mason and Kieron Jermey.

The IAME Cadet class was smaller in comparison, and belonged exclusively to Shay Keough, who strengthened his bid for the title by sweeping all four races from Billy Vassilev, Shayne Clarke and Ewan Long.

Junior Honda also took on a familiar air, with Ben Cutler winning races one and two. However, Alex Wilkins put an end to dreams of another clean sweep by claiming the third and final heat, although that was not enough to throw Cutler off his stride come the final.

The points leader, however, did not have it easy, with increasingly impressive novice Finley Green coming through to take runners-up honours just 0.3secs shy of the winner, with Wilkins completing the podium.

The busy timetable meant that it was inevitable that some classes would be merged on the day, and so it was that Junior TKM found itself sharing track time with both Junior Rotax and the comparatively new Junior X30 category.

Ross Deal, Louis Beaven and Tom Rawlings shared the TKM heat wins before Alex Rees came through to claim the top step of the podium in the final, edging Sam Johns by 0.3secs while Beaven capitalised on a DSQ for Rawlings to beat Deal to third spot.

David Spiller was unopposed in Junior Rotax and thus found himself sharing a final with the X30 runners while the TKM karts got their own stand-alone main event.

Harry Platten appeared to be the driver to beat in X30, winning all three heats, and would have added the final as well had it not been for him running afoul of the scrutineers and stewards after crossing the line several seconds clear of second place. His disqualification allowed Harry Dyson to clean up ahead of Oliver Greetham and Bayley Gregory.

Senior Honda welcomed another new face in the shape of Daniel Watkins, but the novice's inexperience showed as he gave vain chase to the rest of the field.

Without April tormentor Kristian Prosser absent from the entry, Monty Gorringe was able to complete the clean sweep he was denied four weeks previously, beating Tom Ford and Paul Saunders to the top step in the final.

Like their junior counterparts, the Senior Rotax boys found themselves sharing the South Wales Karting Centre tarmac only, on this occasion it was with both the TKM Extreme of sole runner Callum Johns and the visiting Senior X30 class, spearheaded by former Llandow champion Josh Collings.

While Collings had to give best to Zach Jones in one heat, he duly made light of his rival's retirement after seven laps of the final to run out victorious by a similar number of seconds over Euan Wilson in the final.

Likewise, Rotax runner Rob Ellis defied the challenge of both Sam Morgan and Morgan Rose in the heats to return to P1 in the main event, reversing the April result with his main rivals duly filling the podium

After Super One has come and gone, round five of the Llandow Kart Club championship will share top billing with the annual Welsh Championships over the weekend of June 20-21.

RESULTS

BAMBINO - 1. Nathan Browning (Zip), 2. Caleb McDuff (Zip), 3. Cameron Crockett (Birel), 4. Joseph Baird (MS); CADET HONDA - 1. Alex Lloyd (BRK), 2. Wesley Mason (Project One), 3. Kieron Jermey (Project One); CADET IAME - 1. Shay Keough (Shark), 2. Billy Vassilev (Wright), 3. Shayne Clarke (Zip); JUNIOR HONDA - 1. Ben Cutler (7Kart), 2. Finley Green (Biz), 3. Alex Wilkins (7Kart).

JUNIOR TKM - 1. Alex Rees (Jade), 2. Sam Johns (Jade), 3. Louis Beaven (Tonykart); JUNIOR ROTAX - 1. David Spiller (Alonso); JUNIOR X30 - 1. Harry Dyson (Octane), 2. Oliver Greetham (Alonso), 3. Bayley Gregory (Octane); SENIOR HONDA - 1. Monty Gorringe (7Kart), 2. Tom Ford (7Kart), 3. Paul Saunders (7Kart).

SENIOR ROTAX - 1. Rob Ellis (Kosmic), 2. Sam Morgan (CRG), 3. Morgan Rose (Tonykart); TKM EXTREME - 1. Callum Johns (Tonykart); SENIOR X30 - 1. Josh Collings (CRG), 2. Euan Wilson (Alonso), 3. Zach Jones (CRG).

BEST NOVICE: Josh Coombes (Cadet Honda); DRIVER OF THE DAY: Jack Johns (Junior TKM).

CL

Llantwit Major Cavaliers fall to defeat against Morriston

THE Llantwit Major Cavaliers' first XI home fixture on Saturday, sponsored by Stage Door 1's production of *Starlight Express*, ended in a comprehensive defeat at the hands of Morriston.

Captain Snelson elected to bowl first on a pitch that looked flat and made for batting. Pickford (12-2-52-1) and Griffiths (12-2-44-2) shared the new ball again and bowled well, restricting Morriston to 35-1 from 13 overs.

The wicket was courtesy of a caught and bowled by Griffiths as Gimblet (7) fell trying to increase the scoring rate. The Morriston batsmen, Richards (105*) and Maddock (46), then shared a partnership of 100 by punishing any loose balls from the Cavs and by running hard between the wickets.

Jono Cheal (8-1-20-0) bowled excellently, despite not being rewarded with a wicket. The Cavs finally made the breakthrough in the 40th over, with Jenkins (13-1-35-1) bowling Maddock through the gate.

However, with eight wickets in hand and 10 overs remaining, Morriston were in a strong position and could afford to bat more expansively. Griffiths and Pickford bowled the death overs for the Cavs and picked up a wicket each.

Unfortunately for the Cavs, a pair of catches were dropped and a few run out opportunities were missed. Credit must go to the Morriston batsmen, particularly Richards, who put the fielders under pressure with aggressive strokeplay and good running between the wickets.

Morriston managed to score 60 runs off the last 10 overs and Richards deservedly brought his century up in the final over of the innings as his team finished on 188-4 from their 50 overs.

After a lovely tea, the Cavs set about their chase. Davidson (14), Withers (13) and Collins (11) saw the Cavs reach the strong position of 46-1 from nine overs.

However, the introduction of Powell (14-4-28-4), poor running between the wickets and rash shot selection saw the Cavs slump to 88-7. The second such collapse of the season, possibly due to a lack of time in the middle for some batsmen, highlighted that mistakes at this level will be punished.

The Cavs cannot continue to let games slip away from them in this way if they are to win games in this division. The Cavs were eventually all out for 106, only picking up four points from a loss that leaves them third bottom of the table. The Cavs' all round game, in particular their batting, must be improved upon this week as they welcome table toppers Cimla to Windmill Lane.

The Cavs' 2nd XI played their local rivals Great Western at Newbridge Fields.

Put into bat, the Cavs scored 182 for 6 off their 40 overs (Neal Pritchard 50, Shane Callard 36). In reply, Great Western were bowled out for 107 with the last ball of the 34th over, thereby giving Alex Harris a 'five for' to go with his 18 not out; bowling figures Alex Harris 10-1-21-5, Scott Wheatley 10-2-22-4.

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors: Accesstraining.co.uk, Anthony Brown Estate Agents, Chiropodist Roz Couzens, Cooperative Travel, Jaipur Bangladeshi & Indian Cuisine, Llantwit Major Autocentre, Oxford Lawns and Gardens, Simons Plaice, Sinclair Direct and Wave Design to Print for their much appreciated sponsorship of the club.

BJ

BRIDGEND BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

THE results for recent events are:

Wednesday, May 20: 1st Rob Forman and Alan Heath, 2nd Dave Lea and John Evans, 3rd Marjorie Morris and Bill Turner. Winners on handicap Rob Forman and Alan Heath.

Thursday, May 21: 1st Susan Hunt and Stuart Davies, 2nd Steve Burgoyne and David Phillips, 3rd Arthur Harvey and John Hillman. Winners on handicap Susan Hunt and Stuart Davies.

Friday, May 22: 1st Irene Thomas and Graham Jones, 2nd Tony Disley and John Evans, 3rd Vida Halford and Glyn Williams. Winners on handicap John Moore and Mildred Trigg-Knight.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge.

Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

TG

Tight defeat for Maesteg seconds against Cowbridge

COWBRIDGE'S 2nd XI had been warned that Maesteg presented a unique challenge after the 1st XI's experience last week.

As it turned out the conditions were similar - a low, damp pitch and surroundings that did little to gladden the heart.

Nevertheless a superb catch by debutant Andrew Ruston set the early Maesteg progress back and inspired the Cowbridge bowlers to dismiss their opponents for 137 off 29 overs.

Pick of the Cowbridge attack was Aftab who took an excellent 6-31, while Umar also bowled well.

Unused to the conditions Jonty Webb (28) and Jon Brazier (16) got Cowbridge into a winning position but 41 not out from Robert Thomas, a class act at this level, got the 2nds nearly home.

It was left to skipper Ian Evans and John Gilbert to squeeze a victory by two wickets.

JB

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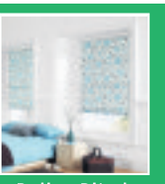
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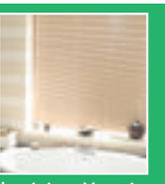
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GEM FAMILY NOTICES

PRING
Matthew (Maff)

Suddenly at home on May 7, Maff, aged 44, well known for his time of Barry and Sully. Cherished son of Beryl and the late Ray, a much loved brother and uncle.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Friday, June 5 at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired may be made at the service to RSPCA in memory of Matthew.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962

GOUDGE
Joyce

Peacefully after a short illness at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on May 18, Joyce of Barry. Dearly beloved wife of the late David Goudge, loving mother of Jan and David, mother-in-law of John and Estelle. Adored nan of Andrew and his wife Victoria and great nan of Anna Lily.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Tuesday, June 2 at 11am, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 12 noon.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

HORRIGAN
Terry

Peacefully on May 18 at Llandough Hospital, surrounded by his close family. Terry, a Cardiff City veteran of the 1940s who will be sadly missed by all.

Funeral will be held at St Helen's Church, Barry on Wednesday, June 3 at 11.30am, afterwards at Barry Cemetery. Floral tributes may be sent to the funeral director.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

JORGENSEN
Solveig (Sol)

Suddenly on 6 May at her home in Wick. Devoted mother to Seth.

Service and cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Wednesday, 3 June at 3pm. Family flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Ed Evans Foundation, c/o Park Funeral Directors, 7 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB.

SLOPER
Marjorie Agnes

Aunty Marge died at Llandough Hospital on May 18, loving aunt to Vivenne and loved cousin to the late Brian Watson, sadly missed by all her nieces and nephews.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, June 2, service and cremation 11am at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. Family flowers only may be sent to Funeral Home.

THOMAS
Elizabeth

Peacefully at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Elizabeth, a loving aunty, sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service and interment at St Michael and All Angels Church, Colwinston on Thursday, June 4 at 12.30pm.

Flowers may be sent to J.R. & M.F. David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

STANTON
Marie Patricia Lilian

Requiem Mass service will be held at St Cadoc's Roman Catholic Church, Cowbridge on Friday, 5 June 2015 at 1.45pm, followed by private cremation.

No flowers by request, donations if desired may be made payable to Little Way Association and forwarded to the Little Way Association, Sacred Heart House, 119 Cedars Road, Clapham Common, London, SW4 0PR.

NEVENS
David

Peacefully on May 16 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, David, beloved husband of Mary, loving father of Roger and Edward and a devoted grandfather. Formerly Director of Music at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, June 4, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Prostate Cancer Cymru c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

MILES
Joyce

Peacefully on May 21 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, surrounded by her family, Joyce, of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of Bill, devoted mother of Susan and Michael, mother-in-law of Robin and Liz, much loved grandmother of Richard, Eleanor, and Rebecca, and a great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, June 1, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 2.45pm. Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Seawatch Foundations, c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

EVANS
Jack

Peacefully on May 18 at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, Jack aged 94 years of Llantwit Major. Will be always remembered as an energetic, inspiring influence by his wife Mair, and children, Pauline, Martin, Robin and Helen, also his eight grandchildren.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, May 29, service and cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 10am. The family request, if possible, to wear something colourful. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to A.M. Unit, Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

JONES
Valerie Joyce *(née Morgan)*

Peacefully on May 21 at University Hospital of Wales - Valerie aged 86 years, beloved wife of Ashleigh, a loving mother to Christopher and Martyn, a much loved sister and aunt.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at their Windsor Road Chapel, Barry (opposite Mount Sorrel Hotel) on Friday, June 5 at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry. Family request cut flowers may be sent to the funeral home. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

ANDERSON
Luke

Kev, Deb, Zoe, Charlie and all the family would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of sympathy and support at this very sad time.

A big thank you to all who made donations via the gofundme website to Breast Cancer or The British Heart Foundation.

Special thanks must go to Lis John (Humanist officiant) and to all the staff at The Old White Hart in Llantwit Major.

"We cannot thank you all individually, but, from the bottom of our hearts, we thank you collectively."

COGGINS
John William

Suddenly on May 17 at Y Bwthyn Newydd, Bridgend, John of St. Hilary (Mr. Pipe). Beloved husband, father and grandfather.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, May 28, service 2.30pm at St. Hilary Church, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to RNLI c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan CF62 3DZ.

BOYT
Neil

Peacefully on May 24, Neil Ian Curle (Neil) aged 77 years, of Barry. Dearly loved husband of Ann, very much loved father of Cathryn and the late Jayne, father-in-law of Don. Cherished grandfather of Elin and David, dearly loved brother of Dorothy and Terry. Neil will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Friday, June 5. Service in the chapel 10am, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium, 11am.

No flowers by family request. If desired, donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth. Black attire not requested.

Birthdays

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on May 31st

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Mum, Dad, Abby & Connor
xxx

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Anniversaries

Golden Wedding

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Busy times for the Rhoose Lifeguards!

THE SLSGB British Championships this year were held at Hengrove School, Bristol for the Masters team and Millfield, Somerset, for the Nippers and Juniors.

The first of the Rhoose teams to compete were the Masters on March 28 at Hengrove Park Leisure Centre.

With a four person team comprising Simon Parker, Dominic Lee, Jon Foster and Heddus Davies, the team performed very well all picking up medals individually with Dom gaining silver in the Manikin Tow with Fins and Jon gaining bronze in the Rescue Medley.

Simon and Heddus picked up a number of medals, including British Champion golds in their races, with Simon winning gold in the Manikin Carry & Rescue Medley and silver in the Obstacle Race, Manikin Carry with Fins & Manikin Tow with Fins.

Heddus came away with gold in the Manikin Carry & Rescue Medley, silver in the Manikin Tow with Fins and Bronze in the manikin Carry with Fins.

The Masters team would like to thank Tom and Finn for coming along to support and help with timekeeping and manikins.

The Masters team finished in 4th place overall. Well done all!

Next up, a busy weekend lay ahead for the Nippers and Juniors travelling to Millfield School.

On Saturday, April 18, the Nippers kicked off their competition at a packed arena with over 600 children taking part.

Many of the Nippers were competing in events with a number of heats, some with as many as 70 children taking part in their individual age groups.

The team as always put some very impressive displays in the individual and team events with the following medals won; Evie won gold in the Flipper Race and bronze in the Manikin Race.

Elian won silver in the Manikin Race. Congratulations also to Evie and Alex for winning gold in the Tube Rescue event.

With so many kids taking part the organisers needed as much parent and supporter help as possible with time keeping and other duties and so the club would like to thank all of those who gave up their time to help out on the day.

The Nipper team finished in 13th place overall. Well done to everyone who took part over what was a very long and warm day!

The following day saw the Juniors began their competition. Again with a keen start and many of the families staying the night from the Nipper competition the day before, the events got underway once again.

With high numbers of juniors competing across the age groups the team from Rhoose again put in some excellent performances with many of the competitors achieving PBs in their races.

The competition at GB level is always very high but the team did very well to achieve Bronze medals in the under-15 and under-19 Girls Medley Relays.

Well done, Millie, Helen, Ruby and Ellie in the under-15s; and Kelsea, Kathryn, Lauren and Kirby in the under-19s.

As throughout the competition weekend, thanks again to all those who helped with supporting duties over the course of the weekend.

The junior team finished in a very respectable seventh place overall.

Well done to all who competed and helped out on the day. ***JF***

Nippers and Juniors dive into Triathlon with enthusiasm!

Over 50 Nippers and Juniors attended the inaugural Whitmore Bay SLSC Novice Triathlon, which was held at Maindy swimming pool and cycling track on May 9.

Transition areas were marked out, gleaming bikes (and scooters!) were racked and all competitors numbered and marshals in place.

With ages ranging from under 7 to 16 they were split into different distance groups.

There was plenty of smiles and excitement and encouragement and cheers from parents, grandparents and friends as the whistle blew to begin the swim section. There were some impressive times recorded in the pool and it was then a quick change ready for the cycle stage.

Some used the track banking to gain additional speed during the ride while other little legs powered around on their scooters!

Next came the important transition from bike to run and with only a few signs of wobbly legs, every single one of our young triathletes completed the course, picking up a well-deserved medal and bag of sweets for their hard work, effort and great determination.

The day was rounded off with a celebratory fundraising barbecue at Whitmore Bay lifeguard hut.

A great day was had by all involved and the children are very keen to undertake a second event next year. It was deemed excellent team and fitness preparation for the up and coming surf lifesaving season in 2015.

A big thank goes to all involved in the planning and running of such a successful event.

JD

Imps pick up league title

ABOVE: Pictured are Cadoxton Imps Devils after winning the year-10 Championship for season 2014/15. Manager Alan Smith would like to say a massive well done to all the players, as well as thanks to Len Western, Arthur Thompson and all our parents and supporters. Special thanks also go to sponsors Rim Motors, LDS and especially to Ceri of Lectroheat Industrial Heating Limited, who provided the playing kit.

Glory days of the Welsh Steeplechase jockeys

BACK in 1993, I wrote a little book called *Welsh Steeplechase Jockeys* which was published by Cwmnedd Press.

The book, which had a foreword by Sir Harry Llewellyn of *Foxhunter* fame, and an introduction by Rodge Farrant, then clerk of the course at Chepstow, is now out of print.

When space allows, The GEM will be using excerpts from it.

This week, we feature Henry Potts.

The Liverpool Steeplechase of 1837 is recognised by some racing historians as the very first Grand National.

Indeed, when the Liverpool Racecourse Executive announced the conditions for the 1937 race they described it as 'The Centenary of the Grand National Steeplechase'.

How appropriate that it was a Welshman, Henry Potts, who was successful in that historic race which was held at Maghull, not Aintree.

Born in 1810, at the ancestral home of his family, Glan-yr-Afon, near Mold in Denbighshire, Mr Potts, an ardent huntsman, rode as a last minute replacement for an injured rider believed to be Captain Becher of Aintree fame.

Riding a horse called *The Duke* to victory over three other rivals, Mr Potts was a bit ashamed of himself as he had ridden unknown to his parents.

Although steeplechasing was beginning to capture the imagination of the public for the first time, it must be remembered that in the early days, the sport did give the unscrupulous the opportunity to pull a flanker or two.

Hence Mr Potts' reluctance to be associated with the world of steeplechasing.

Next time, we will take a look at W H P Jenkins who began his race riding career when winning a steeplechase at Crwys Farm near where Heath Hospital now stands and Gwyn Saunders Davies, who rode in five successive Grand Nationals between 1896-1900.

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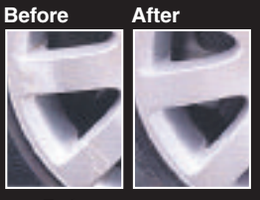

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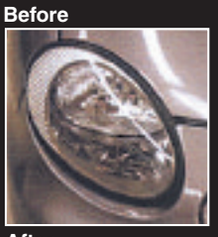

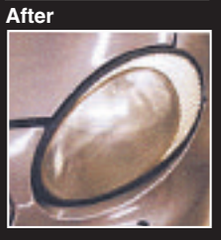

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57 **SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Formula Sport 100 3-Dr** In red, 53,000 miles, good looking hatch **£3,795**
08 **PEUGEOT 207 Sport 5-Dr** In silver, 75,000 miles, 1 owner, full panoramic roof **£3,695**
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blackhorse

Rider Nick's point-to-point double delight!

OGMORE-by-Sea's Nick Williams was in fine form at the West Wales Area Club Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Lydstep near Tenby on Sunday.

Nick, riding Mrs Carmen Goldsworthy's Captain Camelot, won the open maiden race by 25 lengths from Earth Tremor and in a much closer affair he took the restricted race on Elvert Wilkins' seven-year-old brown gelding Good Grammar, which got home by a head from Redbridge Rebel.

Captain Camelot is trained by Gary Moore at Pyle, near Bridgend, and Good Grammar is trained by former rider Dean Coleman, who hails from Cowbridge but who now trains at Amroth.

Another rider who came away with a double was reigning Welsh champion John Mathias, who was successful on the seven-year-old chestnut Dream Bolt in the intermediate race and the prolific Rosies Cousin in the men's open.

Dream Bolt won by 20 lengths from the odds-on favourite Mister Bricolage and the odds-on Rosies Cousin came home 30 lengths ahead of David Brace's BringintheBranston.

Rosies Peacock, who played up going to the start, was winning for the eighth time over the Lydstep course and has now won 28 races.

Miss Treacle, the rank 33-1 outsider in a field of eight, came from nowhere to win the mares and fillies race by a length from Princess Tina.

Owned and trained by Shan Morgan, of Mandryka fame, Miss Treacle was ridden by Devon's Will Gordon who recently rode his first winner.

There were only three runners for the ladies' open race and when Louis Ludwig unseated Jessica Mills at the third fence, the race became a match between Keith Pritchard's Watch The Birdie, the long odds-on favourite, and Liz Egerton's Heavenstown.

The pair raced together on the second circuit but eventually Watch The Birdie, partnered by Hannah Lewis, drew away to win by four lengths.

The old adage always bet the outsider in a three horse race certainly paid off in the mares and fillies only race when Renta Gallery, a 10-1 chance, well-ridden by Bradley Gibbs, had two lengths to spare at the finish over the odds-on favourite Kimora.

Gibbs said about the nine-year-old chestnut mare: "She jumped well and put her head down in the closing stages and ran on well." Renta Gallery is owned by Treorkey's Dr Adrian Thomas and trained by his son Richard, who was saddling his first winner.

Connor Brace, aged 13, won both pony races that were held. He won the 138cms race on Molly and the 148cms race on Peateaoh.

ROGER'S FFOS LAS WINNER

Bridgend builder Roger Willcox had plenty to smile about at Ffos Las over the Bank Holiday, when his eight-year-old bay gelding Patricktom Boru easily won the opening Bet TotePlacePot Handicap Chase.

Roger, who is well-known on the Welsh hunt racing circuit, had earlier run Patricktom Boru in the Dunraven Hunters' Chase in April.

Patricktom Boru is now trained by Evan Williams at Llancarfan, who later saddled Zarzal, winner of the Totepool Bet On All UK Handicap Hurdle.

He also saddled the runner up Battlecat. Both Patricktom Boru and Zarzal were ridden by Adam Wedge.

VALE RIDERS' SUCCESS

Tom David and James Tudor both rode winners at the Berks & Bucks And Staff College Draghounds Point-To-Point at Kingston Blount on Sunday.

Tom won the intermediate race on 4-1 chance BankSandDitches and James the men's open on the odds-on favourite Harbour Court.

BRIAN LEE

'NEW2GOLF' LADIES GET IN THE SWING FOR VELINDRE

Left to right, entrants to the Golf4Life Fun competition: Lindsay Guthrie – winner of five hole comp; Jane Williams; Emily Pullham – winner of nine hole comp; Louise Dixon; Shirley Hamill; Helen Archer; Gaynor Openshaw-Smith; Esther Storey; Hayley Hughes; Kat Ambroziak; Lizzie Evans; Andrea Kitzinger; Cheryl Hopkins; Olivia Sherrin.

GOLF professional Gareth Bennett and Cottrell Park Golf Resort have been raising funds for Velindre Hospital in Whitchurch since August 2014.

Fundraising was initiated through the Golf Development Wales 'New2Golf' scheme encouraging beginners and lapsed golfers to take up the game of golf.

Gareth qualified as a PGA Professional in 2007 and became one of Cottrell Park's professionals in October 2013.

He offered his coaching services free of charge for the Golf4Life named sessions and all participants paid £5 per week or £25 for six weeks.

The hour-long sessions covered all aspects of the game and finished with an on-course fun competition. All proceeds were collected and £720 was raised.

In addition, the club arranged for pink golf shirts to be logo'd and sold with a contribution of £10 per shirt to be donated to the charity. In total, 27 shirts were sold raising a further £270.

More recently, Gareth has been coaching a group from 'Spindogs'; a local leading web design and developments agency. They donated £300 for lessons for their employees and clients which again were donated to the charity. Three members of their team are continuing with lessons to improve their game.

Finally, a Golf4Life competition was held on Monday, May 4. The entry fee was £10 per person, with £5 going to Velindre. A field of 18 entrants entered, with some playing a five hole competition and the rest a nine hole competition. Entrants included four Cottrell Park employees, two Spindog employees and ladies currently having lessons with Gareth.

The winner of the five hole comp was Lindsay Guthrie with 36 shots and Emily Pullham won the nine hole competition with 71 shots. Both winners received a 30 minute golf lesson with Gareth Bennett.

In total, £1,500 was raised for Velindre Hospital, including a donation of £120 from Cottrell Park Golf Resort. A cheque presentation took place on Friday, May 22.

Velindre Cancer Centre provides specialist cancer services to over 1.5 million people in south east Wales and beyond and they are one of the largest cancer centres in the UK.

Gareth commented: "The New2Golf scheme at Cottrell Park has been hugely successful. On a personal note, it feels great to be able to give back to the game of golf by providing free lessons and giving opportunities to people to take up this great game and structured pathways to membership. At the same time, we raise money for a fantastic charity."

Learn archery at local school

BUDDING bowmen and aspiring archers are invited to try out archery with Caerau Dragons Bowmen on Sunday, May 31, between 10.30am-4pm at St Richard Gwyn RC High School, Argae Lane, Barry – even if they have never picked up a bow and arrow before.

Not only will visitors be able to try out a new sport, they will also have the opportunity to meet new friends – there will be plenty of current club members to lend a hand and chat about how they got started in archery.

All equipment will be provided, therefore all participants need to do is bring along themselves and plenty of enthusiasm!

To find out more visit www.archerygb.org/bigweekend or contact Simon Miskin on 07974786235 for local information.

SM

Good week for Romilly bowlers

ROMILLY Bowling Club had another good week with two wins and a loss winning their Munro Cup and S V L A games but going down to Barry Athletic in a friendly.

Romilly 'A' side are unbeaten in the S V L A Cup and on Saturday they travelled to play Llantwit Major, confident but expecting a hard game against a side that are always difficult to beat on their own green.

'The Rom' welcomed the return of Des Bannister and Tony Freeman at skip to boost the side and by the fifth end Bannister was ahead by three but Freeman was struggling at seven down.

Bryn Gough's rink was also struggling at nine behind and although Howard Jones rink was ahead, albeit by one shot, the overall score at this stage saw Romilly behind by 12 shots, 14-26.

After such a poor start the game was always going to be a struggle for 'The Rom' to recover but by the 10th end the Romilly players were showing their battling qualities, recovering to take a one shot lead.

As the game progressed Romilly were beginning to take control with the rinks of Bannister, Jones and Freeman ahead by the 15th end and only Gough's rink behind, allowing 'The Rom' a 19 shot advantage going into the final quarter.

Romilly maintained their form over the final six ends to run out convincing winners by 16 shots, 93-77, remaining unbeaten and taking 12 points to Llantwit's two.

Rink scores: K Clements/C Tapscott/M Gronow/D Bannister 26-18; C Davies/D Noble/B Cheal/A Freeman 22-16; D Mottram/K Wesgate/P Clarke/H D Jones 19-15; L Jones/R James/B Wyatt/B Gough 26-28.

The Romilly club side had a friendly game against a strong Barry Athletic team away at their Island green in readiness for the league season starting this Saturday away to Ferndale.

The Romilly players always look forward to playing this fixture, not only to test themselves against formidable opponents but to play on a green which is always presented in pristine condition and a pleasure to play on.

On a warm sunny day the game began with the Athletic taking an early 10 shot lead by the fifth end; by the 10th end the deficit had doubled to 20 shots.

Romilly were under the cosh and were finding it difficult to cut the deficit in the face of some fine bowling by Athletic skips Glyn Thomas and Martin Clarke.

At end 15 'The Rom' had fallen further behind with the rinks of Fred Phillips and Brian Foscolo struggling against Thomas and Clarke's rinks, being down 10 shots and 16 shots respectively; the other rinks skipped by Jeff Wright and Graham Cogbill were holding their own, being just one behind and one ahead respectively against the rinks of Dave Wright and Rob Horgan.

Over ends 16 to 21 Romilly could not make any inroads as 'The Athletic' maintained their stranglehold on the game and ran out worthy winners by 31 shots, 61-92.

Romilly gained a 12-2 victory over Cowbridge in their latest Munro Cup fixture and remain unbeaten.

FP

The Barrivale Bridge results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for May 19:

1st Denis Mottram & Noelle Bond 59.90%; =2nd Debbie & Simon Richards 58.85%; =2nd Kay Dyer & Peter Millar 58.85%; Debbie and Simon Richards won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required.

If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively beginners or improvers/new starters would be welcome on a Friday at 9.45am at the above address.

DR

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ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

PENCOED UNDER-16S' PRESENTATION NIGHT

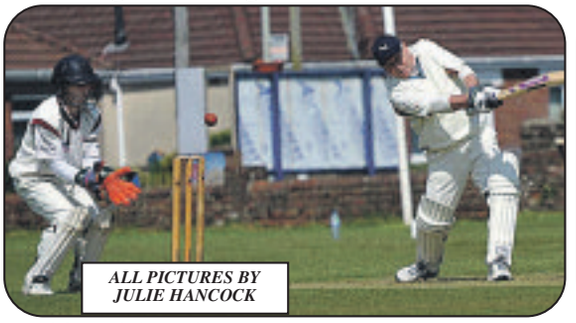
Double award winner Tommy Reffell pictured with his mum and dad.

THE Pencoed under-16s team held their presentation night recently.

Caps were awarded to Zach Taylor, Callum Palmer, Tommy Reffell, Dewi Parrish, Morgan Allen, Josh Goode, Cameron Fyvie-Davies, Garwyn Williams, Iwan Krieger, Max Brennan.

The players' player award went to Tommy Reffell, who also picked up the supporters' player award. **JH**

Defeat for Pencoed cricketers



ALL PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

PENCOED Cricket Club lost for the first time this season at home to table-topping Blaina.

After losing the toss Pencoed were sent into the field and looked to have the opposition in trouble at 36-2 thanks to an excellent run out and captain James Smith getting an early wicket. However Blaina recovered with opener Adam Lane scoring an excellent 64 to total 202-7 off 40 overs.

James Smith was the pick of the bowlers with 3-29 supported by Jack Frewen with 2-64 and Dewi Jury (1-26).

Pencoed started off slowly with an opening stand of 30 between Martin Mills and Jack Frewen, but once Frewen was out for 13, wickets tumbled and Pencoed never looked likely to chase down the total.

Layton Williams chipped in with an excellent 46 but his only support came from Shaun Williams, who scored 17, leaving Pencoed all out for 117.

Lane capped an excellent individual performance for Blaina (5-31).

This week Pencoed will hope to get back to winning ways away at Pontnewyndd.

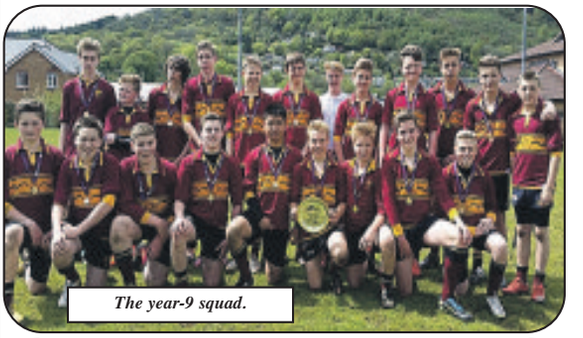
In a junior game on Friday night, Pencoed batted first and scored 240 (our best pairing being Rowan and Dan with +20).

Porthcawl then scored 262 (Cole with three wickets and one excellent catch). There was not a lot between the two sides especially when you consider Porthcawl had one county player who scored nearly 20 runs on his own.

Many thanks to all the youngsters and parents who braved the arctic conditions on Friday!

MM

Rugby remains in safe hands at Pencoed school!



The year-9 squad.

The year-11 players.

WALES Rugby League recently held its champion schools finals day at Taffs Well RFC.

For year 11, it was their fifth consecutive final, after winning the competition in Year 7, 8 and 9 and narrowly losing to Glantaf last year.

As a result of previous success, the team has represented Wales in the British Cup, reaching the quarter finals on two occasions, and competed against some of the best rugby league schools from the north of England.

In this year's Welsh final, Pencoed were drawn against a very physical Monmouth Comprehensive side, who started the game very well. Pencoed held their composure and with man of the match Callum Palmer, along with Tom Williams and Dewi Parrish, taking the game to Monmouth, Pencoed took their fourth title, winning 40-28.

The year 9 game saw the side make it to the final of the Welsh cup for the first time. In a game that saw Pencoed regularly taking the lead, but never fully able to shake off their opponents, Cwm Rhymni, the ability of stand off and man of the match Sam Costellow to bring big runners like Will Chen and Tom Bending into play ultimately saw them win 20-14; year 9 will now go into next year's under-15 British Cup.

RUGBY UNION Earlier in the term, Year 11 students Tommy Reffell and Tom Williams were included in the Wales under-16 training squad as a result of their performances for the school, Pencoed RFC and the Ospreys under-16 team.

Tommy was then chosen to represent one of the Wales under-16 sides that competed in the Wellington international tournament against England, Scotland and France.

Tommy's rugby future looks bright, as he is set to become part of the Leicester Tigers Academy next season, where he will combine his rugby development with academic studies.

The PE department at Pencoed Comprehensive would like to wish him all the very best for the future and thank all of the Year 11 players for their commitment to the school over the last five years.

IP

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